Professional and Creative Writing

About this area of study

Writers are involved in the creation and/or development of all types of creative writing. Creative writing covers a number of wide and varied forms including prose (such as novels or children's literature), poetry and material for the theatre, screen and radio (such as comedy/soap opera scripts, drama productions or documentaries). Writers also help to create the content for video games and cartoons.

Most writers work freelance and are self-employed. Writers are often required to support themselves through other types of employment to make ends meet. These tend to include teaching, lecturing, publishing and editing, as well as other entirely unrelated and non-creative jobs. Writers will also stress how important it is to keep in contact with peers for consistent and critical feedback, along with support. This can be accessed in the form of critical appraisal services (provided by local arts organisations), writers' circles or writers' courses and workshops.

Due to the freelance nature of the work, there are very few vacancies advertised as actual 'jobs' and most opportunities are found by making speculative approaches or by answering calls for submissions. Consequently, it is essential to ensure speculative approaches are appropriate and in the correct style.

Deakin University students will be provided with opportunities for cross discipline collaboration, multi-skilling, internships, international study and study in professional practice and entrepreneurship. The expertise of staff, who are active media practitioners, and industry, through visiting special guest and casual academic staff will be drawn upon.

Courses offered by Deakin University include

- Bachelor of Arts (Professional and Creative Writing)

Labour market information

Grads online has information regarding graduate salaries and where graduates go after completing their course www.gradsonline.com.au

Job Outlook has information about the labour market outlook http://joboutlook.gov.au

Related occupations

Critic

The work of a critic consists of the appraisal and dissection of any piece of work within the arts. The best critics fully understand the artistic field they are reviewing and aspiring critics should aim to create their own unique style of writing that is both engaging and informative.

Publishing copy-editor / proof-reader

Ensure that texts due for publication are well written, grammatically correct and accessible. They work on a range of publications, including books, journals, newspapers and it-based resources.

Broadcast journalist

Broadcast journalists are responsible for investigating, gathering and reporting on news and current affairs issues. They are expected to present this information in an accurate and balanced way through news bulletins, documentaries and other programmes for radio and television.

An industry career profile, salary and other employment information can be obtained from the My Future website www.myfuture.edu.au

Descriptions of occupations can be found at The Job Guide www.jobguide.thegoodguides.com.au

Employers

ABC www.abc.net.au

Austereo www.austereo.com.au

Fairfax www.fairfax.com.au

ACP Magazines www.acp.com.au

Edit Force www.editforce.com.au

Australian Government www.apsjobs.gov.au

State Government www.careers.vic.gov.au

Heart Foundation www.heartfoundation.org.au

Roche www.roche.com.au

Woolworths www.woolworths.com.au

For specific employment opportunities visit the following sites

Deakin University Jobshop www.deakin.edu.au/jobshop

Arts Hub www.artshub.com.au

Freelancer www.freelancer.com.au

B&T Media www.bandt.com.au/Jobs.asp

Graduate Opportunities www.graduateopportunities.com

Uni Grad www.unigrad.com.au

Seek www.seek.com.au

My Career www.mycareer.com.au

Career One www.careerone.com.au

Professional associations

Australian Society of Authors www.asauthors.org

Creative Industries Skills Council www.cisc.com.au

Australian Society for Technical Communication www.astcvic.org.au

Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance Australia www.alliance.org.au

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment www.asle-anz.asn.au

Association for the Study of Australian Literature www.asaliterature.com

Society of Editors (Victoria) www.socedvic.org

Playwriting Australia www.pwa.org.au

Australian Writers' Guild www.awg.com.au