

Careers for Creative Writing Majors

There are a great many career fields which build on studies in Creative Writing. In exploring options, reflect on the skills you have developed through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

What skills and knowledge do I develop by studying Creative Writing?

- ability to accurately articulate thoughts and feelings, both verbally and in written form
- skills in negotiating and utilising constructive criticism of and from peers and lecturers
- experience working with peers in small and large groups in the discussion of the act and results of creative writing
- ability to articulate critical ideas in relation to the process and notion of creative writing
- knowledge of various areas of creative literature, historically as well as contemporaneously, from the western canon as well as other cultures and avant-garde works

What careers build on these skills and knowledge?

The table lists a range of careers which make use of studies in Creative Writing. The list is not definitive – depending on your own interests and experiences, there may well be other ways to build on your Creative Writing major.

For more information on career fields listed in the table:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options
(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Next Steps

The table also provides some information about ‘next steps’ ie what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether graduate study is required or whether immediate employment is possible.

There are two employment types for Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs (GEPs)

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/find_a_job/professional_and_graduate_work

Career field	Employment setting	Next Steps: Employment and/or graduate study
Writing eg fiction, non-fiction, scriptwriting...	Self-employed	Manuscript assessment, private mentoring, workshopping
Public Relations and Communications	Public Relations consultancies, 'In-house' communications	Career-entry employment (eg Communications Assistant) - prospects enhanced by relevant work experience eg Arts Internship subject, and/or Graduate study – Public Relations, Communications
Advertising eg copywriting	Advertising agencies	Career-entry employment (eg Account Coordinator) - prospects enhanced by relevant work experience eg Arts Internship subject, and/or Graduate study - Advertising
Publishing and editing	Publishing houses, 'In house' communications	Career-entry employment (eg Editorial Assistant) - prospects enhanced by relevant work experience eg Arts Internship subject, and/or Graduate study – Publishing and Editing
Journalism	Media organisations – television, radio, online and print	Graduate study – Journalism Some cadetships possible for non-media/journalism graduates – most likely in rural/regional areas
Teaching/ Educating	Secondary schools Universities	Graduate study – Teaching (requires studies to cover 2 'learning areas' – refer to guidelines – Master of Teaching site) Graduate research study path – Honours/Masters/PhD
Research (academic)	Universities, research institutes	Graduate research study – Honours/Masters/PhD (Research Assistant roles require Honours minimum)

What other careers could I consider?

Creative Writing majors may also pursue careers which are not directly related to the study of Creative Writing but make use of transferable skills and/or pick up on other interests.

- **Careers via graduate study** – many careers are available via graduate study which is accessible to Bachelor of Arts graduates; these include both Arts-related careers eg Information Management/Librarianship, International Development; and careers in more diverse fields such as Urban Planning, Nursing, Information Systems, Accounting.
- **Careers via Graduate Employment Programs** - in addition to government, some other large organisations have programs open to all disciplines where graduates are generally recruited for general management careers. Some management consultancies also consider applicants from all disciplines. Opportunities are advertised (generally early each year) on *Careers Online*, and graduate recruitment sites eg Graduate Opportunities, GradConnection.

Where can I find out more?

For more information on career fields listed in the table:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration - Career Links by Degree – Arts)

Other discussions about what you can do with a major in Creative Writing:

- University of Tennessee <http://whatcanidowiththismajor.com/major/majors/>
- University of Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand:
www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/careers/Resources/career_publications/career_view/index.aspx

Professional Associations:

www.writersvictoria.org.au

Other related associations:

http://careers.unimelb.edu.au/student/online_career_tools/exploring_your_options

(Career Exploration – Professional Associations by Degree - Arts)

Graduate study at University of Melbourne:

<http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/courses/graduate>

<http://graduate.arts.unimelb.edu.au/>

<http://government.unimelb.edu.au/>

Researching courses which are not offered at Melbourne: www.myfuture.edu.au

