



# **South Gate** Creative Writing School

The art and business of storytelling



## **Study Program**



## Table of Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>OFFICIAL TITLE OF EDUCATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>AUTHORITY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ECTS/HOURS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>STUDENT COUNSELING AND SUPPORT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
COMMON ROOM .....	7
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE.....	7
STUDENT COUNSELOR .....	7
DANISH STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICE.....	7
<b>STUDY PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
KNOWLEDGE .....	8
SKILLS .....	8
COMPETENCIES.....	9
<b>COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
SEMINAR AND GENRE.....	10
TOOLBOX.....	11
PRACTICUM.....	11
BUSINESS.....	11
LITERARY ANALYSIS.....	12
<b>EXAMS AND GRADES.....</b>	<b>13</b>
FAILED EXAMS.....	13
ACADEMIC WITHDRAWAL.....	13
ACADEMIC LEAVE .....	14
INTERNSHIPS TO REPLACE COURSES .....	14
INDIVIDUAL STUDY PLANS.....	14
EXAM COMPLAINTS .....	14
FORMAL ERRORS .....	14
CONTESTED GRADE .....	15
PLAGIARISM .....	15



## Introduction

Welcome to the Study Program for South Gate Creative Writing School!

Embark on a transformative journey in the dynamic world of creative writing with our 4-year, industry-aligned education in Creative Writing. Our comprehensive program delves into the theoretical and practical aspects of various writing forms such as novels, short stories, poetry, screenwriting, and digital storytelling.

The purpose of our Creative Writing program is to empower and nurture the next generation of skilled writers and storytellers who will contribute to the literary, cultural, and entertainment landscape. Our graduates will be well-equipped to pursue careers in a wide range of fields, such as novel writing, publishing, journalism, content creation, advertising, scriptwriting for film and television, and freelance writing.

By emphasizing a balance between rigorous writing workshops, interdisciplinary electives, and hands-on learning experiences, our program fosters creativity, critical thinking, and professional development. Students graduate with a robust portfolio of original work and a deep understanding of the creative writing industry, ensuring their readiness to meet the demands of today's diverse and ever-evolving job market.

At South Gate, we are committed to providing a nurturing, inclusive, and intellectually stimulating environment that is free from denominational or political biases. We believe that an appreciation for the power of language and the written word transcends barriers and fosters a greater understanding of our shared human experience.

In the era of digital communication and global interconnectivity, the demand for creative writing abilities and advanced communication skills is greater than ever. These skills not only cater to the traditional literary and entertainment industries, but also have valuable applications across other sectors in Denmark and worldwide.



## Official Title of Education

The official title of the education is “Creative Writing”. The education has been assessed by the Danish Accreditation Institution as a Level 6 (bachelor’s level) education.

### Danish levels and EQF levels

The Danish levels 2 to 8 correspond to the same level in the EQF. The Danish level 1 corresponds to EQF level 2.

Denmark	EQF
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8

*The diagram shows which levels of the Danish framework correspond to which levels of the EQF.*

Upon graduation, students receive a Degree of Fine Arts in Creative Writing with all individual grades from all exams and a certificate of completion with any academic honors earned. South Gate Creative Writing School issues a graduation package that consists of the following documents:

1. Diploma of Fine Arts: A certificate confirming successful completion of the program with the date of completion.
2. Transcripts: A summary of all courses and grades assessing the learning outcomes, along with documentation of the minimum study load in hours (6780 hours) and ECTS (240).



## **Authority**

The Creative Writing Diploma is offered by South Gate Creative Writing School, a private education provider operating in Denmark.

As a private education provider, South Gate is not eligible for accreditation in Denmark (which is only available to public universities). However, the education has been assessed by the Danish Accreditation Institution under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science, and has been placed at Level 6, the same level as a bachelor's degree.

South Gate consistently dedicates significant efforts to ensure the quality of the education, aiming to deliver the highest possible standard of learning. This includes a systematic involvement of experts in various fields from authors to scholars, publishers and agents, and experts from the various genres being studied. In addition, South Gate collaborates with other educational institutions and professionals in a rigorous evaluation policy.



## ECTS/Hours

The education is designed as a full-time study for a total of 1936 contact hours and 6780 student work hours (or the equivalent of 240 ECTS) over four academic years (of eight semesters, 20-22 weeks each, 840 hours [30 ECTS] per semester).

The academic year at South Gate begins in late August and concludes in the middle of June.

A typical week consists of core courses, reading, writing, mandatory class time, workshops/masterclasses/clubs, and author platform management. Core courses go from 10:15 to 14:15 with masterclasses, workshops, and clubs usually happening later in the day.

- Six core courses (12 hours)
- Reading primary texts (18 hours)
- Writing assignments (8 hours)
- Workshops/masterclasses/clubs (4-6 hours)
- Author Platform Management (2 hours)

After classes conclude for the semester, the students use the remaining weeks to finalize their academic projects and submit them for their exams.

<b>Quantification of Hours: Student Workload by Semester</b>												
Semester Weeks	Core Courses					Workshops, Masterclasses, Clubs					Weekly Hour Total	
	Classtime	Reading	Writing	Author Platform Management	Total	Clubs (D&D, Film, Hunt a Killer)	Study Skills	Workshops	Field Trip, Masterclasses	Totals		
Week 1: Reading Week #1 & Orientation	6	18	14	0	38	2					2	40
Week 2: Class Week 1	12	17	8	2	39	4	2				6	45
Week 3: Class Week 2	12	17	8	2	39	6	2				8	47
Week 4: Class Week 3	12	17	8	2	39	7	2				9	48
Week 5: Reading & Writing Week #2	2	20	18	2	42	4		5			9	51
Week 6: Class Week 4	12	18	8	2	40	7	2				9	49
Week 7: Class Week 5	12	18	8	2	40	6	2				8	48
Week 8: Class Week 6	12	18	8	2	40	7	2				9	49
Week 9: Reading & Writing Week #3	2	20	18	2	42	4		5			9	51
Week 10: Class Week 7	12	18	8	2	40	7	2				9	49
Week 11: Class Week 8	12	18	8	2	40	6	2				8	48
Week 12: Reading & Writing Week #4	2	20	18	2	42			5	6	11	53	
Week 13: Class Week 9	12	18	8	2	40	6	2				8	48
Week 14: Class Week 10	12	18	8	2	40	2	2				4	44
Week 15: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	2	18	16	2	38	4		5			9	47
Week 16: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	2	16	18	2	38						0	38
Week 17: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	2	3	35	2	42	4			2		6	48
Week 18: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	0	2	38	0	40						0	40
Week 19: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	0	1	38	0	39						0	39
Week 20: Exam, Writing, & Supervision	2	0	38	0	40						0	40
Week 21: Final Exams Turned In	2		38	2	42						0	42
<b>Totals</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>964</b>	



## **Admissions and Enrollment**

Applicants must have earned, at minimum, a high school or equivalent diploma and provide the following documents for review by the Admissions Board: curriculum vitae, a personal statement, sample of creative work, transcripts, and other ancillary materials (letters of recommendation, any awards, or publications). Next, applicants respond to a media engagement survey to assess applicants' reading habits and how they engage with literature and other forms of media.

The applicant will then be assessed by the Admissions Board according to these standards:

1. Work ethic, motivation: based on CV and personal statement.
2. Previous grades: based on transcripts (how well will this student do with an English curriculum?)
3. Writing sample: does the writing sample show a passion for creative writing, an ability to produce large quantities of writing, the need for South Gate classes to improve their writing, the potential for being successful in the publishing industry?
4. Do the letters of recommendation support the student's passion for creative writing and/or academic knowledge/thirst?
5. Has the student won any awards, received any grants, or been recognized in the writing/art community?



## Student Counseling and Support

South Gate Creative Writing School has several areas in which students will find support.

**Common Room:** South Gate's online Common Room is used for general questions and conversations with both peers and faculty. Various topics and issues can easily be discussed, explained, and resolved there.

**Student Representative:** Elected by the student body, students can contact their Student Representative for school and personal concerns. All discussions are confidential and will never be journaled.

**Student Counselor:** Students can go to the Student Counselor with academic or personal issues that the student needs formal help with. This includes, but is not limited to, deadline extensions, delayed assignments, academic withdrawals, and more. Meetings are confidential unless the student requests otherwise.

**Danish Student Counseling Service:** Students can use Studenterrådgivningen in their Aalborg branch: <https://srg.dk>.

South Gate always strives to make the environment inclusive to all, so if the administration can make a student's time at South Gate more comfortable and successful, they are happy to do so.

Students with any form of learning disabilities, including but not limited to, dyslexia, attention- and neurodivergence, and other challenges are encouraged to contact the Director to make special accommodations for their studies at South Gate. South Gate is committed to being an open and inclusive learning environment and will facilitate what students need to get the most out of their time at South Gate.

South Gate is committed to making all reasonable arrangements that will allow students and instructors to participate in courses, workshops, masterclasses, and events. Please note that the school is on the second floor of a building without elevator access.

South Gate recognizes that not all disabilities require accommodations, and some are invisible. South Gate does not require that students or instructors disclose their disability to the administration, but given the range of disabilities, South Gate may not know how to properly accommodate someone with a disability unless they contact the administration directly to share their questions or concerns.

Please contact LeAnne directly: [leanne@southgateschool.dk](mailto:leanne@southgateschool.dk) and South Gate will make every effort to accommodate requests and improve the environment.





## Study Program Learning Objectives and Outcomes

South Gate provides aspiring authors with a practical education in the art and business of storytelling for modern media. The program is designed to foster the mastery of popular genres, develop students' unique voices, and teach the skills necessary to become successful working writers. Upon completion of the program, graduates will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

### Knowledge:

1. Understand the historical, cultural, and social contexts of various writing traditions, genres, and trends.
2. Demonstrate familiarity with the works of prominent authors and literary movements.
3. Comprehend the principles of narrative structure, character development, and world-building.
4. Recognize the distinct features of different media forms, including novels, film, television, stage, and gaming.
5. Practical knowledge of how to write within a wide variety of genres.
6. Applying creative knowledge to develop and innovate within different genres and traditions.
7. Gain insights into the business aspects of the literary world, such as author platforms, publishing, and grant applications.
8. Understand how to promote one's author brand to both publishing houses and the public at large.
9. Understand how to market creative works within larger creative industries.
10. Use of different creative and academic approaches and methodologies within creative writing and communication more broadly.
11. Identify and adapt the most effective techniques for creative writing purposes.

### Skills:

1. Produce original and engaging written works in various forms, genres, and media.
2. Apply effective writing techniques and strategies to convey meaning and engage readers.
3. Edit and revise written work with attention to clarity, coherence, and style.
4. Conduct research and synthesize information to inform and enrich creative writing projects.
5. Collaborate with others in workshops, group projects, and peer review processes to enhance writing and critical analysis.
6. Employ creative practices for problem-solving, both in creative projects but also in other work situations, such as teaching, presentations, and marketing.
7. Build and maintain an active author brand.
8. Establish an author-based business, including a professional business plan.
9. Able to develop business plans for creative industries.
10. Ability to stay current in the constantly changing creative industries, such as adapting one's business plan and exploring new, relevant social media opportunities.
11. Communicate effectively and innovatively for all demographics.



12. Produce and engage with creative communication strategies in a variety of contexts, including but not limited to cultural and aesthetic industries.
13. Communicate ideas across disciplines both to peers and non-specialists.
14. Understand and employ appropriate creative and academic writing techniques to solve cultural and creative challenges.
15. Employ appropriate critical theories to revise the graduate's writings, as well as that of others.

### **Competencies:**

1. Adapt to the demands of various writing projects and professional settings by demonstrating versatility and resilience.
2. Continuously be able to develop and maintain state-of-the-art knowledge of the publishing and creative writing world.
3. Adapt to the changing demands of the publishing world and industry, including self-publishing and alternative means of publishing (crowdfunding, etc.).
4. Learn time management techniques to meet deadlines.
5. Communicate ideas and feedback effectively, both in writing and oral presentations.
6. Learn ethical and professional conduct in the creative writing industry.
7. Capable of managing and participating in large-scale transmedia projects.
8. Collaborate in complex creative processes, such as writing rooms, ghostwriting, and work-for-hire projects.
9. Engage in lifelong learning and professional development to stay current with industry trends and best practices.



## Course Learning Objectives

The South Gate study program features theme-driven semesters, focusing on genres such as Science Fiction and Fantasy, Romance, Mystery and Crime, Seriality and Transmedia, The Gothic, Narrative Complexity, Children's Literature, and Literary Realism. Students engage with industry-spanning courses and electives, covering various aspects of the literary world, including books and publishing, film and television, poetry, and gaming. The program's innovative curriculum and unique approach to combining the art and business of storytelling prepare students for success in a diverse range of career opportunities within the creative writing industry.

South Gate takes an unusual and innovative approach to its teaching structure and the way student cohorts flow through the program. All students participate in the semester's genre focus, sharing courses to foster intellectual debate across the years and to have as wide engagement as possible, allowing for peer learning, one of the most crucial aspects to make the student milieu flourish, both academically and socially. Since genres intersect and intertwine but do not build on each other, such an unusual teaching structure is possible.

The other courses are where progression across the education's four years is ensured. Students follow their year or a smaller grouping, depending on the class. Progression is and should be most pronounced in the Practicum courses, where students work on their writing, as well as one-on-one supervision that takes place for third-year students and up.

### Seminar and Genre

The eight Seminar and Genre topics are:

1. Science Fiction and Fantasy
2. Romance
3. Mystery and Crime
4. Transmedia and Seriality
5. The Gothic
6. Narrative Complexity
7. Children's Literature
8. Literary Realism

**Seminar Description:** 10 classes, 2 hours, 8 semesters

In Seminar, students study the historical, social, and cultural context of the genre's evolution over time. Over the ten lectures, this course explores the intricacies of how war, politics, religion, art, and societal expectations have influenced the genre and its canon of literature.

**Genre Description:** 10 classes, 2 hours, 8 semesters

In Genre, students read and discuss primary texts from the semester's canon of literature, diving into a specific sub-genre by reading an assigned text, dissecting its plot, characters, dialogue, and description while researching the author's biography and how their work has been received by the public and adapted over time.



## **Toolbox**

The eight Toolbox topics are:

1. How to Write and Publish Science Fiction and Fantasy
2. Creating Unforgettable Characters
3. How to Write Mystery and Crime
4. Transmedia Writers Room
5. Writing Gothic and Horror
6. Writing Children's Literature
7. Story Structure Architect
8. Mapping out the Novel and Screenplay

Toolbox Description: 10 classes, 2 hours, 8 semesters

The Toolbox course aims to develop the craft of writing. Students learn components of successful narratology, study plot paradigms and story structures, as well as how to create unforgettable characters and world-building. Students also learn more complex aspects of the craft like how to use the Principle of Antagonism, how to write authentic dialogue, and how to create tension at the sentence level, amongst other tools.

## **Practicum**

The practicum courses are designed to build off each other and culminate into the senior project.

Practicum Description: 10 classes, 2 hours, 8 semesters

This course is a forum where student work generates feedback from classmates and the instructor. It uses a “fly on the wall” approach in which the writer can only listen to how an audience might read their text. By teaching students to give supportive and motivational feedback, this environment fosters safety and encouragement so the student and their work can flourish.

## **Business**

The eight Business topics are:

1. Creating an Author Platform
2. Publishing Short Stories
3. How to Write a Business Plan
4. Author Finances
5. Project Management
6. Transmedia Marketing
7. Writing Reviews
8. Finding Agents and Publishers

Business Description: 10 classes, 2 hours, 8 semesters

South Gate's unique approach provides an understanding of the literary business in order to help students become artist-entrepreneurs. Students learn how to build a branded author platform and to write articles, blogs, and reviews. Students learn how to produce business plans, proposals, and grant applications, and how to query agents and read contracts.



## **Literary Analysis**

The four Literary Analysis topics are:

1. Rhetoric and Composition
2. Close Reading
3. The History of Literary Criticism
4. Contemporary Literary Criticism

Literary Analysis Description: 10 classes, 2 hours, 4 semesters

Literary Analysis courses teach students how to structure academic essays, as well as evaluate and abstract literature through established forms of criticism. Students build a collection of lenses like formalism, feminism, and Marxism, and contemporary forms like love and ideology, animals, eco, the uncanny, and queer to analyze primary texts read in their Genre courses.

The detailed learning objectives are made available to all enrolled students at the beginning of each semester.



## Exams and Grades

South Gate uses the following exam types:

1. Portfolio Exam. The primary exam type at South Gate. Each course sets the number and length of the assignments and deliverables per semester. See Learning Objectives for details.
2. Oral Presentation. Each course sets the duration and specific requirements for the presentation. See Learning Objectives for details.
3. Academic Research Paper. Each course sets the length and topic of the assignment. See Learning Objectives for details.

All exams are graded on the Danish 7-point scale. One third of exams are externally examined. Here is an overview of which exams and how many ECTS-points the exams are worth:

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7	Semester 8	Total
Seminar			5	5					10
Genre					5	5			10
Toolbox							10	30	40
Business					5	5			10
Literary Analysis			5	5					10
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>80</b>

A diploma is earned when all core course exams have been handed in and graded. Any failed exam must be taken again (until passed).

### Failed exams

For a student to graduate, they must pass all exams. A student can retake an exam at the beginning of the following semester. If they still do not pass, the student must work with the Director to agree on when they should take the exam again.

All students have the right to take an exam up to three times. After this, if the student has still not passed the exam, the student must work with the Director to finalize an individual study plan.

A course will not be retaught in the case a student was unable to attend. Instead, the student must use the existing course materials to retake their exam.

### Academic withdrawal

A student has the right to withdraw from one or more exams in a semester. The student must then work with the Director to agree on when to take the necessary exams.



## **Academic leave**

A student has the right to take academic leave from South Gate due to illness, pregnancy, or other reasons, when sufficient documentation can be provided. The Director will work with the student to create an individual study plan.

## **Internships to replace courses**

In case a student wants to do an internship at a company to replace course ECTS-points, they must agree with the Director on a case-by-case basis. South Gate encourages internships for students who can do so.

The internship must last at least as long as the student work hours for the course and must cover similar topics. The student must, after completion of the internship, hand in a portfolio exam that describes the work done for the internship and includes sample work from the internship. The internship exam portfolio is always assessed by the Director, irrespective of who the course instructor is. An internship cannot be done for externally examined courses, except in rare cases.

## **Individual study plans**

An individual study plan is a contract between South Gate, represented by the Director, and the student. The study plan outlines which and how many courses the student will take in a given semester.

The Director creates the study plan in collaboration with the student. Upon completion, both Director and student sign the study plan.

A student on an individual study plan cannot expect a course to be retaught, nor expect an instructor to give them further information than what is already present in the course materials. In special cases, an instructor may be brought in to assist the student, in which case the instructor will also sign the individual study plan.

No semester can have more than 30 ECTS-points worth of exams, without the student's express acceptance.

## **Exam Complaints**

A student has the right to complain about an exam. This may happen in two ways:

1. There have been formal errors in the exam.
2. The student is dissatisfied with their grade.

## **Formal errors**

In case of formal errors, the student describes the formal errors with reference to the course materials and explains how these errors impacted their exam.

The course instructor is then asked to respond to this complaint, specifically addressing the student's claims on how the errors impacted their exam.



The Director presents the case to the Study Board that makes the decision about the formal complaint.

If the Study Board decides in favor of the instructor, nothing further happens. The student retains their grade.

If the Study Board decides in favor of the student, the student will retake the exam and have a different instructor or external examiner grade their exam. The student will receive a new grade, which will be the grade in their transcripts, irrespective of which grade was higher.

### **Contested grade**

If a student is dissatisfied with their grade, they may file a complaint, outlining the reasons why they believe their grade is incorrect. The student must reference the learning objectives of the course and cite passages in their exam that fulfill these learning objectives.

A student cannot ask for a grade to be changed but may request a regrading.

The course instructor is then asked to respond to this complaint, specifically addressing the student's claims of having fulfilled the course learning objectives.

The Director presents the case to the Study Board that makes the decision about the formal complaint.

If the Study Board decides in favor of the instructor, nothing further happens. The student retains their grade.

If the Study Board decides in favor of the student, the student will resubmit the exam and have a different instructor or external examiner grade their exam. The student will receive a new grade, which will be the grade in their transcripts, irrespective of which grade was higher.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism, whether deliberate or accidental, is a serious matter and will lead to disciplinary measures. The exam work should consist of original work that the student produced during the semester and should not copy or steal from other artists, students, or academics (or themselves). The students have been taught how to cite all of their sources in MLA, and therefore, at the end of the semester, South Gate implements a No Tolerance Policy in regard to plagiarism. If the students are unclear about what plagiarism is, they are advised to contact an instructor or an admin. If plagiarism is found in the amount of 5% or more, students are in jeopardy of being expelled from the program.