ABOUT THE PROGRAM
Creative writing resides within the English department, sharing and contributing to its distinguished faculty and achievements. The program appeals to majors, minors and students from nearly every field. The major includes workshops, literary studies, studio or performing art, and independent study, leading to high-caliber creative work, along with a historical and contemporary grasp of literature and culture. The honors thesis option culminates in a book-length manuscript of poetry or fiction developed in close contact with writing faculty during the senior year. A semester-long honors project of smaller scope is also offered. Graduates include writers, cinematographers, doctors, lawyers, comedians and professors.

What makes the program distinctive?
Our undergraduate program is taught and administered entirely by established authors, unlike many comparable schools. Faculty members have extensive publications and national honors, and a dedication to teaching and mentoring. Our impressive roster of visiting writers has included Alice Walker, Louise Glück, Rafael Campo, Mark Doty, Henri Cole, Jay Wright, Jayne Anne Phillips, Bapsi Sidhwa, Adrienne Rich and Thylias Moss.

FAST FACTS
Current number of majors and minors: 27
Number of faculty: 7
Can you minor in this program? Yes
Emphasis within the major:
fiction; film and media; foundational texts; mixed genre; multicultural and Anglophone literatures; poetry; screenplay
Popular second majors:
English, theater arts
Website:
www.brandeis.edu/departments/english/creativewriting/index.html
ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

Visiting writers
Our School of Night Reading Series brings outstanding writers to campus to share their work and meet with students. Recent guests have included Poet Laureate Louise Glück, poet and translator Kazim Ali, renowned poet Kimiko Hahn, award-winning fiction writers Lorrie Moore, Colm Toibin and Donald Antrim, and New York Times bestselling authors Anita Diamant and Daniel Smith. We have also hosted panel discussions with editors and literary agents.

Resources
The Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts sponsors student-run initiatives: an anthology of student literature, writer/artist collaborative projects, installations and spoken-word performances. Social gatherings and workshops on publishing and honors options are organized throughout the year.

Internships
Creative writing majors have held internships at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Condé Nast Publications and internships at the Georgia O'Keeffe Creative writing majors have held Internships organized throughout the year. publishing and honors options are given for creative honors theses.

Distinguished faculty
Elizabeth Bradfield is the author of the poetry collections “Once Removed,” “Approaching Ice” and “Interpretive Work.” Her poems have appeared in The New Yorker, Orion and elsewhere. Founder and editor-in-chief of Broad-sided Press, she lives on Cape Cod, Mass., and works as a naturalist locally and on expedition ships. She is the Ziskind Poet-in-Residence and serves on the faculty of the low-residency MFA program at University of Alaska Anchorage.

Michelle Hoover is the Fannie Hurst Writer-in-Residence and teaches at Grub Street, where she leads the Novel Incubator program. Her debut, “The Quickening,” was a 2010 Massachusetts Book Award “Must Read.” She won a 2014 NEA Fellowship in support of her second novel, “Bottomland,” which will be published by Grove/Atlantic in March 2016. She has taught at Boston University, Emerson College and Bucknell University, among others.

Stephen McCauley is the author of eight novels. His work has been translated into more than a dozen languages, and three of his novels have been made into feature films. He has taught at Wellesley College, Harvard University and University of Massachusetts, and was named a Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture.

Study abroad
Majors have studied for a semester or summer in countries such as France, Italy, Ireland, India, Australia, Scotland and Israel. Programs, some of which focus on literature and writing, are available in 70 countries.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Student awards
The department annually awards nearly $1,000 for outstanding student work. The Dafna Zamarripa-Gesundheit Award, for example, is awarded for the best fiction published in each year’s Laurel Moon, and the Andrew Grossbardt Award recognizes the best poem. Several more awards are given for creative honors theses.

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AFTER BRANDEIS

Real grads
Among majors and those who have studied in workshops at Brandeis are award-winning author Ha Jin; the poets Linda Pastan, Alicia Ostriker and Mary Leader; playwright and screenwriter Theresa Rebeck; Ross Martin, poet and senior VP for programming at mtvU; poet, fiction writer and memoirist Shirley Geok-Lin Lim; New York Times bestselling memoirist and journalist Daniel Smith; Elisa Albert, author of three acclaimed works of fiction; Emmy-nominated writer and comedian Josh Gondelman; and Ethan Mermelstein, script coordinator on “Nurse Jackie” and “Girls.” Many of our graduates go on to MFA programs both here and abroad. Maria Pinto, Rebecca Mahoney and Kendra Fortmeyer are among several recent graduates whose manuscripts have found representation and are being considered by publishers. Other recent graduates have found work related to their creative writing major in publishing, advertising, academia and creating content for online businesses and startups.

“You’re not necessary to write a New Yorker-level story to have a successful workshop experience; it’s about learning the craft of writing and, ultimately, becoming a close, careful reader,” says novelist Stephen McCauley.