

## MFA in Creative Writing (NEOMFA)

### INTRODUCTION

Cleveland State's English Department is a founding member of the North East Ohio Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing (NEOMFA), the country's only consortial MFA degree. Ten years in the planning, NEOMFA brings twenty-six writing faculty members from four universities (Cleveland State, Kent State, Youngstown State, and the University of Akron) into a single comprehensive program with five different focus areas: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, playwriting, and literary translation.

While there are no help-wanted ads for novelists or poets, communication skills are everywhere in short supply. Our graduates work in many fields where communication matters. Still, motivation for entering the program should be foremost a passion for language and for becoming a stronger, more inventive, disciplined writer.

### DEGREE PROGRAM

NEOMFA has a 48 credit-hour requirement: 15 hours of writing seminars, 6 hours of craft and theory, 9 hours of literature, 3 hours of required

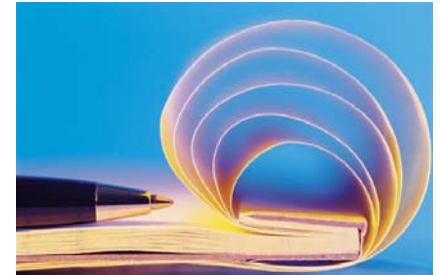
internship in a practical, arts-allied area (teaching, editing, arts administration, etc.), 9 hours of elective, and 6 hours of creative thesis. NEOMFA students register freely across institutional boundaries and have an extraordinary range of options. Full and partial assistantships are available to teach, to work with one of four poetry centers, three literary publishers, or several literary magazines.

The CSU Poetry Center has been a significant publisher of contemporary poetry for over four decades. *Whiskey Island Magazine* has been student published here for three decades. And the *Imagination Writers' Workshop* has brought nationally significant authors to Cleveland for almost two decades now. As a gateway into NEOMFA, CSU provides a shirt-sleeve urban environment with baseball, bratwurst, ballet, perfect pierogies, and a thriving community of writers.

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

To apply through CSU, first apply to the English graduate program, and then submit a portfolio of creative work (15

pages of poetry or literary translation, 30 pages of fiction,



nonfiction, or playwriting) and a 1-page statement of purpose in a single Word attachment to Maggie Anderson, NEOMFA Director, at: [neomfa@kent.edu](mailto:neomfa@kent.edu)

#### **For admission information, contact:**

Cleveland State University  
Graduate Admissions Office  
2121 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
(216) 687-5599  
[www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/](http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/)

**For program contact:** Jane Dugan at [j.dugan@csuohio](mailto:j.dugan@csuohio) or call 216-687-2532. Snail mail to Dept. of English, Cleveland State University, 2121 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44115. Or visit the NEOMFA website:

[www.yzu.edu/neomfa/](http://www.yzu.edu/neomfa/)