



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

CANDIDATE BRIEF

Caster Cultural Fellow in Poetry, School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures



Salary: Grade 7 (£41,064– £48,822 p.a. depending on experience)

Reporting to: Hazel Hutchison

Reference: AHCEN1083

Location: University Main Campus (with a scope for hybrid working)

1FTE, 37.5 hours per week.

Fixed term until 31 August 2028 to complete a specific time limited work

We are open to discussing flexible working arrangements.

Caster Cultural Fellow in Poetry

School of English, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Cultures

Overview of the Role

Are you a poet with a developing national and/or international profile for whom a poetry fellowship would make a significant artistic and professional difference?

The University of Leeds has a strong tradition of encouraging new poetry and of exploring the poetry of the past. Poetry@Leeds (previously the University of Leeds Poetry Centre) fosters a supportive environment for research, teaching and public engagement, celebrating and facilitating excellence in poetry, within and beyond the University. Our work demonstrates the powerful insights, across disciplines, time periods, languages and cultures, to be gained from researching and writing poetry.

As a Caster Cultural Fellow situated in the School of English and Poetry@Leeds, you will be funded full-time for a 24-month period in which to develop your creative practice in a University context. You will also have opportunities to interact with the academic community across the University's research disciplines and engage with students and external partner organisations. You will be supported in shaping the fellowship according to your own interests and professional goals, which may include gaining experience teaching in higher education and/or developing innovative, public-facing collaborations or projects that draw upon the University's research strengths and external partnerships.

Made possible by the generosity of the Caster family, Caster Cultural Fellowships are designed to nurture creativity at a crucial stage in a poet's development. Previous Caster Cultural Fellows in Poetry include Helen Mort, Malika Booker, Anthony Vahni Capildeo, Zaffar Kunial and Matt Howard. The work of these Fellows continues to shape the contemporary poetry landscape in the UK and internationally, earning recognition in the form of prizes and awards including the Forward Prize, the Cholmondeley Award, the Windham Campbell Prize, the Scotland National Poetry Prize, the Ledbury Second Collection Prize, and the ASLE-UKI Book Prize Award.

To be considered for this fellowship you must be a practitioner with a developing national or international profile. At this stage of your career, you will have achieved public recognition and demonstrate potential to develop further outstanding work in your creative field. You will be able to articulate specific ways in which a Caster



Cultural Fellowship at the University of Leeds would make a difference to your creative practice and professional development.

What does the role entail?

As a Caster Cultural Fellow in Poetry your main duties will include:

- Developing your creative practice;
- Disseminating your work through publications and/or events;
- Shaping the fellowship to support your interests and professional goals, which may include gaining experience teaching in higher education and/or developing innovative, public-facing collaborations or projects that draw upon the University's research strengths and external partnerships;
- Helping to raise the University's profile and reputation as a centre of excellence in poetry;
- Acting as an ambassador for the University and Poetry@Leeds.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

What will you bring to the role?

You will have:

- A national or international track record as a literary artist in the field of poetry;
- Potential to develop outstanding new work in poetry;
- Proven ability to develop constructive working relationships with people at all levels within an organisation, and across a diverse range of disciplines and interests;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Excellent presentation skills and a readiness to discuss your work with diverse audiences;
- The ability to work well as part of a team;
- The ability to act as a role model to build trust through openness, honesty and integrity;
- Good time management skills and the ability to prioritise tasks.



How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on Wednesday 1st April, 2026.

Interviews will be held on Friday 8th May 2026.

Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact: poetry@leeds.ac.uk

Additional information

Working at Leeds

We are a campus-based community and regular interaction with campus is an expectation of all roles in line with academic and service needs and the requirements of the role. We are also open to discussing flexible working arrangements. To find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area visit our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

Our University

As an international research-intensive university, we welcome students and staff from all walks of life. We foster an inclusive environment where all can flourish and prosper, and we are proud of our strong commitment to student education. Within the School of English we are dedicated to diversifying our community and we welcome the unique contributions that individuals can bring, and particularly encourage applications from, but not limited to Black, Asian, people who belong to a minority ethnic community; people who identify as LGBT+; and disabled people. Candidates will always be selected based on merit and ability.



Information for disabled candidates

Information for disabled candidates, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found under the 'Accessibility' heading on our [How to Apply](#) information page or by getting in touch by [emailing HR via hr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hr@leeds.ac.uk).

Criminal record information

Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending. Any offer of appointment will be in accordance with our Criminal Records policy. You can find out more about required checks and declarations in our [Criminal Records](#) information page.

