

Ella Delany



Ella Delany is a twenty-two year old writer from Melbourne who has just been accepted into the Masters in Fine Arts program at Columbia University in New York City, in the field of fiction. The program aims to develop the artistic abilities of the students admitted to the program via writing workshops as well as literary seminar programs. The program is top-ranked and highly competitive; about 600 people apply every year, and the program takes 80 to 90 students. In addition to the workshops and seminars, students must submit a thesis project of at least 32,500 words (or 35 poems) in their third year. The program additionally allows for internships to be pursued at institutions such as the New Yorker and The Paris Review. Columbia School of the Arts alumni includes writers such as Wells Tower, Paul Auster, and Man Booker prize winner Kiran Desai.

Before commencing her MFA program, Ella graduated from Cambridge University, in the United Kingdom. Her undergraduate studies at Cambridge University were funded by the Cambridge Commonwealth Trust. Her undergraduate studies were highly successful and at the end of the second part of her degree she was ranked thirteenth in her year. Her final research thesis achieved a first class mark. During her undergraduate studies at Cambridge, Ella also completed an internship at the International Herald Tribune in Paris (the global publication of the New York Times) and published multiple articles in the New York Times.

Whilst she was completing her internship, she developed a portfolio of short fiction. On the strength of her portfolio, she was offered places in the graduate creative writing programs of Oxford, Manchester, and Columbia Universities.

Ella Delany is keen to complete her first novel by the close of the MFA program, and looks forward to developing her career via internships and publishing opportunities throughout her studies in New York. Ultimately, she hopes to develop a career as a novelist and journalist, both in Australia and in the United States.

Ella would like to express her sincere thanks to the American Australian Association and The Dame Joan Sutherland Fund for their generous assistance in the development of her writing career.