

Olivia Thomakos

330-340-4663 | oliviathomakos@uri.edu | www.oliviathomakos.com | Rhode Island, USA

EDUCATION

University of Rhode Island – Ph.D. in English and Creative Writing	2024-present
University of Edinburgh – M.Sc. in Creative Writing, poetry – <i>distinction</i>	2021-2022
University of Dayton – B.S. in Secondary Education and English – <i>summa cum laude</i>	2014-2018
Minor in International Studies and TESOL certificate	

Additional Study

London internship and study , London, UK	2016
Interned as Assistant Production Manager at the Youth Music Theatre UK and completed two courses in Shakespearean Literature and Business Globalisation	
Chaminade University Academic Semester Exchange , Hawai'i, USA	2016
Completed courses in American Literature, Early British Literature, Drama and Poetry, Economics, and Political Science	
Greece Study Abroad , Paros, Greece	2015
Completed courses in Creative Writing I and II, Art, and Photography	

HONORS

University of Edinburgh Grierson Verse Prize for poem 'What You Wish For'	2022
J. William Fulbright Malaysia English Teaching Assistant	2019
University of Dayton Honors Program, Trustees' Merit Scholarship, and Dean's List Student	2014-2018

EXPERIENCE

Conference Respondent to Yi-Ping Ong's "The Hum of One's Own" in the New Directions in Philosophy conference, URI 2024.

Open World Multimedia Commission for my children's poem 'How To Be A Tree,' an audio track, animated film, and feature for children's streaming platforms. Project includes promotional materials and adjacent content.

Social Media, Distribution, and Marketing Assistant for *Wet Grain* poetry magazine, a small, biannual poetry magazine based in Edinburgh. I create and edit YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter content to promote readers and new issues.

Project Manager with Forest Publishing, a recognized UK arts charity, for which I handle budgets and grants and coordinate with new creatives to publish new work

Co-Editor of *Origin Stories: An Anthology of Beginnings* a collection of prose and poetry from writers worldwide

Grans! Manager – Curated and managed Hidden Door event and Zine distribution with Forest Publishing as well as poets' payment

Creative Writing Master's Mentor - Selected by Creative Writing Program Director to provide guidance and advice to new students in a formal workshop

Poetry Editor-in-Chief, Co-Treasurer, and Marketing Assistant of *From Arthur's Seat* anthology volume seven with the University of Edinburgh, a collection of prose and poetry from the 2021-2022 Creative Writing cohort

Poetry Workshop Host on the theme of 'Home' with Paradok Theatre Creative Writers

Open Mic Host for MSc Creative Writing Fiction and Poetry students at the Waverley Bar in Edinburgh

Editor and Typesetter for a [Creative Journal](#) publication of student work in Malaysia. Contributors were aged 11-19 and submitted poems, short stories, essays, and artwork funded by a grant from the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, crowdfunding, and presales.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Love & Other Cancers** | debut chapbook of poetry – Stewed Rhubarb Press, May 2024
- What You Wish For | University of Edinburgh 2022 Grierson Verse Prize
- Environ(mental) Impact, Home Again, Peaches, The Big Dipper | From Arthur's Seat Volume 7
- *After Isobel Gowdie* | Origin Stories: An Anthology of Beginnings – forthcoming
- Letters to YiaYia, Molting | Lemon Peel Press – forthcoming
- Ukrainian-English Translation Project (5 poems) – forthcoming
- Poem for Elif | Outcrop Poetry Magazine
- New Boy iii | Gypsophila Magazine
- Advocating for a more equitable future | University of Edinburgh Teaching Matters Blog
- Market Body | Kalopsia Literary Journal

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- The Last Meal We'll Have, When a Lover Comes Back, Knots, Pupa Phase | The Creative Zine
- Strawberry Rhubarb Pie, Creation Story, Home Again | Tapestries of Tuscarawas County
- All Summer | A Personal History of Home Anthology
- Second Skin | Grans! A Poetry Zine To Celebrate Our Elders
- A Love Letter | Berfrois
- Birthdays | small leaf poetry studio
- Whole Rest | Loud Coffee Press
- Magic Tricks, About Time, Scuffle Step, Reels | DREICH

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

English Teaching Assistant, Colegio Liceo Europa, Zaragoza, Spain September 2020 – June 2021

- Provided English instruction for students ages 11-19 of a private international bilingual primary and secondary school using speaking activities and cross-cultural lessons averaging 25 hours per week.
- Conducted English speaking lessons one-on-one and in small groups students ages 4-13 regarding writing, grammar, and speaking practice averaging 8 hours per week.

Substitute Teacher, Kindergarten – Grade 12, Ohio, USA January – March 2020

- Managed classes averaging 20-25 students in suburban schools, including Grades 4-5 and 9-12 Physical Education and Kindergarten and Grade 3 general education classes.
- Monitored testing in Math, Health, Science, English and for Special Needs classes.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, SMK Tengku Ampuan Afzan, Pahang, Malaysia January – November 2019

- Assisted in English instruction for students ages 13-19 of a rural government secondary school using creative writing activities and cross-cultural lessons.
- Conducted English speaking workshops for students after school regarding creative writing, American culture, and sports.
- Organized English camps for over 600 students using reading, writing, speaking, and listening games and activities.
- Created a literary magazine for creative writing in English using students' poetry, short stories, essays, and artwork.

Student Teacher, Stebbins Secondary School, Ohio, USA August 2017 – May 2018

- Participated in 90+ hours of teaching and observation at a suburban technical school, planning and teaching 10th grade Language Arts, 10th grade honors English and 12th grade British Literature with class sizes ranging 20-32 students.
- Used formal and informal assessment types to gauge student learning and understanding, including rubric scoring for 75 research papers written by 12th grade students.

SERVICE AND TRAINING

Literary Arts Committee Co-Chair 2024-present

- Support and promote the literary arts in the Department of English through literary events aimed at supporting writers, inspiring readers, and promoting appreciation of the literary arts in the wider community.

URI Graduate Student Association Senate Member | Graduate Student Conference Committee 2024-present

- Organize and plan the graduate student conference for spring 2025, coordinating logistics, managing conference schedule, and assist in identifying and inviting keynote speakers, panelists, and moderators.

Student Health Advisory Committee | Graduate Student Representative 2024-present

- Improve communication related to health issues, programming, and resources among students through engaging peer to peer as well as raise awareness and destigmatize health issues faced by the different identified people and groups in URI students' population.

Safe Zone Certified 2024

- This training increases awareness, knowledge, and support of LGBTQ people and issues, builds a visible support network of LGBTQ Allies on URI's campus, and improves the campus climate for LGBTQ people.

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Mental Health First Aid Certified

2024

- Early intervention public education program teaching adults how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally and give reassurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge, and how to refer a person to appropriate professional support and services.