

Henry Mountford

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English graduate from the University of Cambridge

I am a graduate in English literature from the University of Cambridge with wide-ranging interests in the arts. I offer broad knowledge of prose, poetry, theatre, popular and classical music, film and painting, as well as specialist knowledge in Modernism and the Romantic Period (having written dissertations on James Joyce, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Henry Miller). I aspire towards a lively, fun, playful written voice, with a light-touch and verbal flair. In my own time, I enjoy cooking for my friends, and I am also a keen sportsperson and lifelong golfer. I enjoy running in the Yorkshire Dales (where I live), though my enjoyment has more to do with appreciating the natural environment than setting a quick pace. I have a calm, amiable personality, well-suited to forming good relationships with all kinds of people, and working effectively under pressure.

Areas of Expertise

Strong Written Skills
Effective Communicator
Creative Thinker

Time-Management Skills
High-level Research Skills
Skilled Proof-reader and Editor

Broad, Analytical Reader
Practiced in Inter-disciplinary Work
Interpersonal & Leadership Skills

Educational Achievements

- ✓ First Class Degree in English Literature from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, writing dissertations on James Joyce, and Percy Bysshe Shelley in my final year, and on Henry Miller in my second year; I also took an optional Visual Culture paper, in addition to compulsory papers in Tragedy and Practical Criticism
- ✓ Recipient of the T.R. Henn Prize from the University of Cambridge in my final year
- ✓ 3 A-Levels (English: A*, Religious Studies A*, French A) – French A-level equates to B2 on the CEFR
- ✓ 11 GCSEs (English literature: 9, English language: 9, Maths: 6, Religious Studies: A, French: A*, Chemistry: A*, Physics: A*, Biology: A, Latin Language: A*, Latin Literature: B, Geography: A)
- ✓ Academic prizes earned at school: Prize for French (2019), Prize for English literature (2019, 2017), Hirst Prize for Head boy (2019), Prize for Public Speaking (2018), Prize for Religious Studies (2018), Prize for Classics (2017)
- ✓ Work experience in the newsroom at ITV Calendar shadowing local newsreader Duncan Wood

Experience

2022 Graduate | English | St Catharine's College, Cambridge

- 2020/21 co-president of the Shirley Society, the oldest literary society in Cambridge
- Published a Shirley Society magazine ('Wicked Ant'), securing funding from college, collating and editing material from a range of writers across Cambridge, designing, printing and distributing the publication, working to a budget while producing a professional-looking publication
- Earned a Blue for Cambridge in the 132nd University Golf Match in 2021, after playing county-level junior golf and being Junior Captain of Pannal Golf Club
- Performed stand-up comedy to packed audiences at events hosted by Pembroke college and St Catharine's college
- Published writer in several student publications, including the Cambridge Review of Books (writing a 3,000-word article on John Lennon's nonsense writing)
- Writing credits on the album *Love Beautiful Shop-Owners* and the single *Henry's 102nd Dream* by 'Running Standard'
- Head boy at Ashville College, as part of which I gave a speech at the Harrogate Convention Centre to over 1,000 people during Ashville College Speech Day

A Further Look at My Skillset

- **Strong Written Skills:** I aspire to have an engaging written style characterised by playfulness and a sense of fun. I required careful use of language and a light-touch to successfully evoke the styles of James Joyce and Percy Bysshe Shelley in my dissertations (two reputedly difficult stylists)
- **Effective communicator:** I am accustomed to having intellectually challenging and productive conversations with academics and peers, in addition to public speaking and debating experience at school
- **Able to come up with creative, exciting ideas for written work, and execute them:** in my dissertation on Shelley, I discussed the influence of the weather on Shelley's work, drawing on 19th century meteorology, whilst in an essay I wrote in my finals, I explored the significance of Charlie Chaplin's hat
- **Time-management skills:** at university, I have proven my ability to write interesting, well-presented work, hitting weekly essay deadlines while also working on dissertations and playing high-level university sport
- **Proficient researcher and independent worker:** I have undertaken extensive independent work over the course of my degree, in particular during my dissertation on James Joyce, where I was required to assimilate huge amounts of criticism and secondary material, identifying the salient critical insights, informative lines from Joyce's correspondence, as well as the richest passages from his texts
- **Passionate and skilful close-reader:** I can parse difficult passages and offer analytical insights into the workings of texts, whilst also locating texts in their historical and artistic context
- **Proofread and edit written work to a very high standard:** this skill was cultivated across my three dissertations at university, as well as through editorial work on 'Wicked Ant', whilst I also learnt about the editorial process when I worked with an editor at the Cambridge Review of Books
- **Broad knowledge of various artistic and sporting fields:** I can talk convincingly on subjects from Shakespeare to classic Hollywood cinema to hip-hop to Italian opera, and from the slow-pace of test match cricket to the faster speeds of F1
- **Ability to work across disciplines:** I have demonstrated a flair for inter-disciplinarity at university, as in my Visual Culture paper, or in my dissertations of Joyce and Shelley, where I discussed collage and related art-movements in my analysis of Joyce's work, and used the works of John Constable and J.M.W. Turner as context for my exploration of Shelley's poetry
- **Voracious, indiscriminate and careful reader, within and without the parameters of my degree:** capable of acquiring knowledge about new subjects quickly
- **Strong interpersonal skills:** I am affable and consequently capable of forging good working relationships with all kinds of people