

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION – POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Programme name	Creative Writing
Award	MA
School	School of Communication & Creativity
Department or equivalent	English
Programme code	PSCRWR
Type of study	Full time and Part time
Total UK credits	180
Total ECTS	90
Partner (partnership programmes only)	N/A
Type of partnership	N/A

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The MA Creative Writing offers you the opportunity to develop your Creative Writing skills within an interdisciplinary department. The central process of workshopping your creative writing with fellow students will be supported by a number of other perspectives on the subject. You will learn core technical skills and strategies through close readings of contemporary and canonical texts, to understand the choices faced and the decisions taken by the writer of a text, and so inform and enrich your own writing practice. You will study a variety of forms and genres of your choice in fiction, genre fiction and non-fiction, in both short- and long form texts. You will also acquire an understanding of the business of writing, the different forms of print and electronic publication, and the role of editors, agents and publishers.

The programme is underpinned by the conviction that the imagination is a vital mode of perception and enquiry and that language and literature have the power to transform individual lives and cultures. Creative Writing graduates acquire broad and transferable skills that find application in a range of careers in which an imaginative and divergent way of thinking is integral to identifying and solving problems, to making critical and reflective judgments, to the generation of alternatives and new ideas, and to engaging with broader issues of value.

The taught component brings together core practice-based workshops in imaginative writing with a module diet that develops your awareness of writing as a professional practice, and of the current state of the literary landscape through a series of Special Study modules. You will also have the opportunity to take elective modules in English Literature and Publishing that provide you with opportunities for advanced literary study and the acquisition of the knowledge and skills associated with publishing – or to use your elective modules to study other forms of creative writing.

The varied assessment regime fosters your subject-specific and transferable skills, and you will benefit from City's reputation as a provider of academic excellence for business and the professions and from London's outstanding research, cultural and creative facilities. Furthermore, your learning will be enhanced by visiting editors,

writers and literary agents and by the proximity of City to a range of literary events, festivals and readings.

The taught component of the programme consists of two core 15-credit creative writing workshop modules; two core supporting 15-credit modules in analysis of creative writing techniques and professional practice; and two core-elective Special Study modules that allow you to explore particular forms and genres. Finally you take a further two 15-credit modules selected from a range of elective modules in Creative Writing, English Literature and Publishing. The final 60-credit Creative Writing Dissertation will build towards independent study, under the guidance of a supervisor, to complete an extended piece of creative work in your chosen form and genre.

Aims

- To develop your technical awareness of and skills in creative writing across a range of genres as well as in your chosen genre
- To develop your understanding of the creative process from inception to completion
- To develop your understanding of writing as a professional practice
- To develop personal and professional attributes such as self-management and direction, awareness of personal responsibility, motivation, flexibility, capacity to deploy academic skills and knowledge, and reflexivity
- To equip you with a range of transferable skills appropriate for graduate careers in Creative Writing
- To prepare you for further MFA/PhD study and research and to expedite your access to such programmes.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Critically and systematically appraise the technical requirements of different forms of creative writing through completion of an extended piece of creative writing.
- Critically evaluate literary texts from different genres and different cultural traditions, with a focus on their distinctive formal characteristics and thematic concerns.
- Recognise and critically evaluate aspects of the business of writing, including the role of research as well as the roles of agents, editors, publishers and new media.

Skills:

- Engage in the creative process and produce original work.
- Engage with creative writing texts critically, and apply techniques in an original way in your own work.
- Evidence enhanced and confident oral and written communication skills.
- Reflect critically on written work, both your own and that of others.
- Display self-direction and originality and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks.

Values and attitudes:

- Apprehend and discuss how creative writing reflects and speaks to issues of diversity and equality in a global and transnational context
- Develop success in the habits of reflection and independent study in your practice of creative writing
- Display open-mindedness towards constructive criticism of your own work and develop sensitivity in discussion and debate with others.

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark 'Master's Degree Characteristics' (September 2015) and the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement 'Creative Writing' (February 2016).

HOW WILL I LEARN?

You will acquire knowledge and understanding through a mix of writing workshops, individual tutorials, formal lectures, group project work, seminar contributions, study visits, project work and independent learning and research. Visiting speakers, including guest authors, editors, agents and publishers, are invited regularly to support your learning and module projects and to contextualise other knowledge and skills you'll learn on the programme. You are encouraged, through a variety of strategies, to reflect on professional practice and professional frameworks during all of your applied work.

You will be expected to participate and to engage actively during class contact time. This strategy is guided by the educational aim to develop you as a reflective practitioner who engages with appropriate and relevant research and literature. This strategy is interpreted broadly as including the taking of a critical stance on your own work, independent reading and debating issues related to Creative Writing study with peers.

Full-time students can expect between 8 and 10 hours of classroom-based study per week, depending on your module choice, plus time spent on preparatory reading, independent study and practice-based research, and preparation of assignments. Part-time students should typically expect half of this contact time. There is a significant amount of independent study within each module and this time is for you to read literature related to the modules you are studying, to observe and interact with peers, and to plan and develop your assessments as well as reflect on your development as an independent, self-directed writer.

The programme systematically develops a range of graduate-level transferable skills in research, communication and self-direction through seminar work and a diverse assessment regime that will require you to present your work in a range of registers to diverse audiences, both orally and in writing. The Creative Writing Dissertation is 60 credits and an estimated 600 hours of study. It is supported by the skills acquired in the core Writing Workshops and core modules on professional practice. It is also supported by individual supervision sessions.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria

Summative assessment of the programme outcomes occurs across the core, core-elective and elective modules, and in the Creative Writing Dissertation. Individual modules deploy a range of assessment methods, and include portfolios of creative writing, analytic and reflective essays, assessed individual projects (including presentations with supporting research), portfolios of writing and publishing research which demonstrate evidence of skills gained through reflective analysis, research-based assignments and a substantial major creative project.

The Creative Writing Dissertation provides an opportunity for you to demonstrate the skills and understanding you have acquired through the taught provision.

Assessment Criteria are descriptions, based on the intended learning outcomes, of the skills, knowledge or attitudes that you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured. Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the level of skills, knowledge or attributes that you need to demonstrate in order to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment, providing a mechanism by which the quality of an assessment can be measured and placed within the overall set of marks. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria will be made available to you to support you in completing assessments. These may be provided in programme handbooks, module specifications, on the virtual learning environment or attached to a specific assessment task.

Feedback on assessment

Feedback will be provided in line with our Assessment and Feedback Policy. In particular, you will normally be provided with feedback within three weeks of the submission deadline or assessment date. This would normally include a provisional grade or mark. For end of module examinations or an equivalent significant task (e.g. an end of module project), feedback will normally be provided within four weeks. The timescale for feedback on final year projects or dissertations may be longer. The full policy can be found at:

https://www.city.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68921/assessment_and_feedback_policy.pdf

Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully all modules in order to acquire the required number of credits. Each credit carries equal weighting. The pass mark for each module is 50%. There is no minimum qualifying mark for assessment components: you must pass modules on aggregate.

Resit: where you have failed a module at the first attempt, you will be offered one resit attempt.

If you are successful in the resit, you will be awarded the credit for that module. The mark for each assessment component that is subject to a resit will be capped at the pass mark for the module. This capped mark will be used in the calculation of the final

module mark together with the original marks for the components that you passed at first attempt.

If you do not meet the pass requirements for a module and do not complete your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board will require that you be withdrawn from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, the Assessment Board will consider whether you are eligible for an Exit Award as per the table below.

If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at City, please see the full version of the Assessment Regulations at:

http://www.city.ac.uk/data/assets/word_doc/0003/69249/s19.doc

WHAT AWARD CAN I GET?

Master's Degree:

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	67
Dissertation	7	60	33

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Diploma:

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Master's and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities but have achieved 120 credits at Level 7 you may be awarded the exit award of the Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Writing.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	120	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

Postgraduate Certificate:

If you fail to meet the requirements for the PG Dip and have exhausted all permitted resit opportunities, but have achieved 60 credits at Level 7 you may be awarded the exit award of the Postgraduate Certificate in Creative writing.

	HE Level	Credits	Weighting (%)
Taught	7	60	100

Class	% required
With Distinction	70
With Merit	60
Without classification	50

If you enrol on City's MA Creative Writing programme and want to transfer to the MFA Creative Writing programme, you can apply to do so at the end of Term 2, when you have completed the taught component of the MA programme. This is subject to an interview with the Programme Team. The transfer will occur at the point of the Progression Board. Following successful transfer to the MFA Creative Writing you will be enrolled on the MFA Dissertation Module in Term 3 of Year 1 of the MFA Creative Writing programme.

****Please note: students who successfully transfer and complete the MFA programme will be eligible only for the MFA award and will not receive an additional award of MA.**

WHAT WILL I STUDY?*

The MA award consists of 120 credits of taught modules and a 60-credit Creative Writing Dissertation, which is supervised.

Taught component

You will complete a total of 120 credits of taught modules, which includes two core 15-credit workshop modules, two core supporting 15-credit creative writing modules, two core-elective Special Study creative writing modules, and two further 15-credit modules chosen from elective modules in English Literature and Publishing, as well as the remaining Special Study creative writing modules.

All taught modules are in Term 1 and Term 2, except CWM970 which continues into Term 3.

Core Modules (4 x 15 credits)

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Reading as a Writer	CWM965	15	Core	Yes	7
Working as a Writer	CWM967	15	Core	Yes	7
Creative Writing Workshop 1	CWM971	15	Core	Yes	7
Creative Writing Workshop 2	CWM972	15	Core	Yes	7

Core Elective (choose 2 x 15 credits. Students would normally choose one from Short Fiction and The Contemporary Essay, and one from The Novel, The Genre Novel and The Non-Fiction Book. Up to two further modules may be chosen as elective modules)

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Special Study: Short Fiction	CWM973	15	Core Elective	Yes	7
Special Study: The Contemporary Essay	CWM974	15	Core Elective	Yes	7
Special Study: The Novel	CWM975	15	Core Elective	Yes	7
Special Study: The Genre Novel	CWM976	15	Core Elective	Yes	7
Special Study: The Non-Fiction Book	CWM977	15	Core Elective	Yes	7

Electives (Choose 2 x 15 credits from these modules and/or from the remaining core electives)

Constituting Identities	ENM004	15	Elective	Yes	7
Imagined Communities	ENM005	15	Elective	Yes	7
Literary Cartographies	ENM006	15	Elective	Yes	7
Genre in Context	ENM007	15	Elective	Yes	7
Theorising Women's Writing	ENM008	15	Elective	Yes	7
Text and Image	ENM009	15	Elective	Yes	7
Climate Futures: Writing the Environment	ENM010	15	Elective	Yes	7
Digital Publishing	PBM003	15	Elective	Yes	7
Publishing History and Culture	PBM004	15	Elective	Yes	7
How to Make a Book: Creating and Developing Content in Print	PBM006	15	Elective	Yes	7
The Power of Publishing: Strategy,	PBM007	15	Elective	Yes	7

Diversity and Sustainability					
Digital Product Innovation	PBM011	15	Elective	Yes	7

Dissertation component

Module Title	SITS Code	Module Credits	Core/ Elective	Compensation Yes/No	Level
Creative Writing Dissertation	CWM970	60	Core	No	7

**Please note that this is an indicative list. These modules are subject to change depending on staff availability, student demand and some are offered on a biennial basis. There is no guarantee that every elective module listed above will run.*

TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?

The MA Creative Writing prepares you for a career as a writer. It also develops key transferable skills in oral and written communication relevant to a range of careers, including Teaching, Editing, Community Arts Work, Arts Management and Administration, Publishing and Journalism, and within other areas of the creative industries such as advertising and video or computer game production. You will have exposure to agents, editors and others within both traditional and electronic publishing. We have for many years supported the career prospects of our graduates wishing to work in publishing via supportive links with an industry advisory board as well as with alumni.

The MA Creative Writing also prepares you for further MFA / PhD study and expedites your access to such programmes.

If you would like more information on the Careers support available at City, please go to: <http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates>.

WILL I GET ANY PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION?

No

HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

Applicants should usually hold a good Second Class honours degree or a BA-equivalent undergraduate degree from an international institution, although we welcome applications from candidates outside this stipulation if they can demonstrate strong experience or expertise as a creative writer or offer prior learning which may satisfy City's requirements for RPL/RPEL. Applicants must also submit a personal statement and a sample portfolio of creative writing (5,000 words).

If your first language is not English, you will be expected to demonstrate Level 7.0 proficiency in the IELTS English language test.

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