Programme name | Creative Writing (Non Fiction)  
:----------------:|----------------------------------  
Award | MA  
School | School of Arts and Social Sciences  
Department or equivalent | Department of Creative Practice and Enterprise  
Programme code | PSCWNF  
Type of study | Full Time  
Total UK credits | 240  
Total ECTS | 120  

**PROGRAMME SUMMARY**

This programme is designed to provide a supportive, thought-provoking and challenging environment for narrative non-fiction writers to develop your skills, experiment with approaches to writing, reflect on your own work and that of other writers, learn about the industry and complete a polished non-fiction book ready to send to publishers and agents. At the core of the programme is the experience of established writers.

The programme is designed for writers with some experience who would now like to complete a narrative non-fiction book. This is not a programme designed to explore different genres of writing but is for those who know that they want to research, and to write, a full-length narrative. Most importantly, every year, an anthology of excerpts from all the students' work-in-progress is published in the final term: this is presented in showcase evenings and then distributed to literary agents in London and, for overseas students, the agents in your home countries as well.

The programme encourages you to be ambitious and imaginative in your writing. This programme focuses either on memoir or life writing or a research-based book. Within the field of memoir, you will explore different possible styles, approaches and forms; within investigations, you must demonstrate an ability to undertake research and apply this factually-based investigation to your writing.

Our ethos is excellence and diversity, with an emphasis on recruiting students of different ages and from a wide range of backgrounds. In November 2011, The Guardian ranked City's Creative Writing MA in the top three writing programmes in Britain.

**Aims**

1) To provide a supportive, thought-provoking and challenging environment for would-be non-fiction writers of proven commitment and ability so as to allow them to complete a non-fiction book to a high, professional standard.
2) To develop your skills in conceiving, structuring, researching and writing non-fiction.
3) To develop your critical understanding of the works of published writers.
4) To provide you with an understanding of the media's relationship with writers and their work.
5) To provide you with an introduction to, and understanding of, the publishing industry.

**Postgraduate Certificate (60 credits)**

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Writing (non-fiction) you will acquire a degree of understanding of non-fiction genres and be able to apply its key elements to your own writing process. You will have some critical insight into problems related to writing fact-based narratives, including some awareness of ethical issues, and acquire knowledge about your own practice. You will also acquire some introductory techniques in writing within your chosen genre of non-fiction.
**Postgraduate Diploma (90 credits)**

Following successful completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Writing (non-fiction) in addition to the above, you will acquire a broad understanding of non-fiction genres and gain greater experience in applying its key elements writing and their interaction to your own writing process. You will have a broad critical insight into problems related to writing fact-based narratives, including an awareness of ethical issues, and be able to apply this knowledge to your practice, and to others. You will also acquire more advanced techniques in writing within your chosen genre of non-fiction.

**MA (240 credits)**

Following successful completion of the MA Creative Writing (non-fiction) you will acquire a deep and systematic degree of understanding of non-fiction genres and, to a high degree, apply its key elements and their interaction to your own writing process. You will gain deep critical insight into problems related to writing fact-based narratives, including a comprehensive awareness of ethical issues, and acquire an extensive knowledge of your own writing practice. You will also acquire cutting edge techniques in writing within your chosen genre of non-fiction.

**WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?**

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

**Knowledge and understanding:**

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of your personal writing practice and your strengths and interests as a non-fiction writer
- Apply a comprehensive understanding of the key elements of non-fiction writing and their interaction: including the creation of character, the uses of dialogue, the function of scenes and setting, structure, the maintenance of narrative drive, the use of point of view and voice
- Exhibit a systematic, critical understanding of non-fiction writing in its historic and contemporary practice and at the cutting edge: its themes and concerns, its structures and its techniques
- Critically analyse the relationship between existing non-fiction writing and your own along with an awareness of the ethical issues surrounding it including: plagiarism; using real people, places and events in non-fiction works; the current laws regarding privacy, defamation and libel
- Understand the relationship between non-fiction writing and the publishing industry

**Skills:**

- Employ and synthesise non-fiction writing techniques in ways that are both innovative and reflect an awareness of past and current practice by analysing non-fiction with high conceptual understanding
- Research a subject for the purposes of writing long-form, narrative non-fiction.
- Understand and synthesise oral and written feedback from both your fellow students, from your course tutors and from guest authors
- Translate knowledge about the publishing industry into an understanding of how the industry’s mores affect the non-fiction writer
- Control and master narrative non-fiction prose that maintains a coherent structure and compelling intellectual argument

**Values and attitudes:**

- Show informed tolerance of a range of solutions to the problems of writing long-form, narrative non-fiction
- Display open-mindedness towards constructive criticism of your work and the self-confidence to recognise unhelpful criticism along with sensitivity in criticising other
students’ writing
- Demonstrate independence and integrity in making critical judgments both about other writers' work and your own
- Maintain integrity in negotiating the demands of the publishing industry and your own desires as a non-fiction writer

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**
During Terms 1 and 2, workshops, lectures, and seminars are held on two days a week. These are principally concerned with extending your writing skills, your understanding of non-fiction genres and awareness of creative possibilities; with analysing the work of leading writers and exploring that work through a variety of exercises, all of which are designed to “put aside your default writing style” and encourage you to experiment with other possible approaches. All workshops are based round the students’ own writing assignments. We also closely analyse published works of non-fiction: this involves taking apart books just as you would with a review or critical essay, examining the evidence, structure, and style. We aim to give you the confidence to start writing a non-fiction book in exactly the voice and structure which suits your story and story-telling abilities. Throughout both years, there are Q&A sessions with visiting authors.

In Terms 3, 4, 5, and 6, you work principally on your own non-fiction book with the support of one-to-one tutorials and participation in student-led workshops. You are allocated two tutors: one from within the course team and one external tutor – the latter is chosen to specifically suit the style or subject of your proposed non-fiction book. For each tutorial, you submit 10,000 words which is read and annotated in advance by the tutor – then discussed at length in the tutorial. For international students, these tutorials can be conducted by distance learning.

In Term 6 (the final term), the lectures and Q&As focus on visits from agents, publishers, and other industry professionals. These sessions aim to provide you with a knowledge and understanding of the publishing industry and of the ‘business aspects’ of being a writer. Also during this term, for your last tutorial, you will be asked to submit an entire ‘first draft’ of your non-fiction book which will be read in advance by the tutor.

**WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?**

**Assessment and Assessment Criteria**
Writing workshops (two modules) are assessed by the presentation of a portfolio of work written during the module: these are assessed by a range of criteria relating to successful creative writing. The non-fiction book which you present for the Complete Book module is assessed by the same criteria. Seminar and lecture modules are assessed by the presentation of an essay. 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...
Assessment Regulations

In order to pass your Programme, you should complete successfully or be exempted from the relevant modules and assessments and will therefore acquire the required number of credits.

If you fail a module, the following will apply:

1. Compensation: where you fail up to a total of 20 credits at first or resit attempt (15 for a Postgraduate Certificate), you may be allowed compensation if:
   - Compensation is permitted for the module involved (see the module specification), and
   - It can be demonstrated that you have satisfied all the Learning Outcomes of the modules in the Programme, and
   - A minimum overall mark of 10 percentage points below the pass mark has been achieved in the module to be compensated, and
   - An aggregate mark of 50% has been achieved overall.

   If you receive a compensated pass in a module you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The original component marks shall be retained in the record of marks and the greater of the original module mark and the minimum pass mark for the module shall be used for the purpose of calculation towards the Award.

2. Resit: you will normally be offered one resit attempt. However, if you did not participate in the first assessment and have no extenuating circumstances, you may not be offered a resit.

   If you are successful in the resit, you shall be awarded the credit for that module. The mark used for the purpose of calculation towards your Award shall be calculated from the original marks for the component(s) that you passed at first attempt and the minimum pass mark for the component(s) for which you took a resit.

   If you do not satisfy your resit by the date specified you will not progress and the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme, but satisfy the requirements for a lower-level Award, then a lower qualification may be awarded as per the table below. If you fail to meet the requirements for the Programme and are not eligible for the award of a lower level qualification, the Assessment Board shall require that you withdraw from the Programme.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


longer. The full policy can be found at:
Postgraduate Diploma:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Postgraduate Certificate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HE Level</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>% required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taught</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>With Distinction</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Merit</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With Pass</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT WILL I STUDY?**

All students passing the taught modules, and who complete the first 10,000 words component of the 'Complete Book' module, will qualify for the Certificate in the Principles of Creative Writing.

**Module Title** | **SITS Code** | **Module Credits** | **Core/Elective** | **Can be Compensated?** | **Level**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Storytelling | CWM935 | 30 | C | N | 7
Fundamentals of Non-Fiction | CWM959 | 30 | C | N | 7
The Process of Writing | CWM957 | 30 | C | N | 7
Literary Criticism Non-Fiction | CWM958 | 30 | C | Y | 7

**Complete Book** | **SITS Code** | **Module Credits** | **Core/Elective** | **Can be Compensated?** | **Level**
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
CWM956 | 120 | C | N | 7

**TO WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON?**

We would expect our students to approach agents with a view to representation. Alumni are currently represented by all the major London agencies. The manuscripts of those who are successful in finding representation are then presented to publishers with a view to publication.

The alumni who have been published can be found at [http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/creative-writing-novels/#course-detail=4](http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/creative-writing-novels/#course-detail=4)

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](http://www.city.ac.uk/careers/for-students-and-recent-graduates).

**HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?**

Applicants will normally have a UK Honours degree (in any subject) or the overseas equivalent. But successful completion of a certificate-level writing course, or a professional qualification, or relevant experience may also be acceptable.

All candidates must demonstrate a commitment to, and ability in writing non-fiction.

Candidates will need to submit up to a 5,000 word sample of relevant writing sample/s and attend an interview. In exceptional circumstances the interview may be conducted by telephone.

Version: 3.0
Version date: April 2015