

Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	Course Title	MA Creative Writing
2	Course Code	PT1094(FT) PT0961(PT)
3	Awarding Institution	Birmingham City University
4	Teaching Institution(s) (if different from point 3)	N/A
5	Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation (if applicable)	N/A

6	Course Description
	<p>Our MA Creative Writing will help you to fulfil your potential as a writer, whether you work in fiction, poetry, screenplay or creative non-fiction. It is taught by distinguished authors, with the support of a superb range of guest seminars by visiting speakers organised through our Institute of Creative and Critical Writing.</p> <p>Writers are perpetual students. Our programme is designed to help you learn how to keep learning, enriching and refining your practice as an independent author, through disciplines that strengthen your creative imagination, develop your literary knowledge, and cultivate your critical sensitivity.</p> <p>You will hone the skills you need and refine your practice in an atmosphere of creative experiment. Our course is founded upon the philosophy that writers can benefit from the same kind of professional training enjoyed by actors, dancers, musicians, and visual artists, and connects our writers to the creative sector in which they work.</p> <p>You'll have the opportunity to develop your writing across forms and extend your range in fields that may be new to you, under specialist guidance in fiction, poetry, screenwriting and creative non-fiction. You'll be part of a Faculty with a long history of working with the creative industries, and a College with strong connections to literary culture beyond the university, including Writing West Midlands, the Birmingham Literature Festival, the National Writers' Conference, Verve Poetry Festival, The Emma Press, and <i>Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal</i>, which was founded by alumni of the MA Creative Writing programme. Like our partners, we see the literary arts and their study and enjoyment as fundamental to civic and cultural life.</p> <p>Writers help shape the culture into which new literary works are received, as readers and thinkers, and our MA Creative Writing emphasises the close relationship between creativity and critical awareness. You will be introduced to ways of conceptualising creative writing as a form of knowledge and research, and each of our modules will help you to explore and apply critical methods both to your own work and the contexts in which it will be read.</p> <p>Our course will help you become more confident in developing and presenting your writing across the key areas in which contemporary authors work: in print publication, on digital platforms, and in-person public events.</p>

	<p>You will belong to a community of writers that includes your tutors, who will share with you their insight, experience, and practical advice. The range and flexibility of our programme, together with our emphasis on small-group teaching, enables you both to deepen and broaden your practice and to focus on your distinctive needs as a writer.</p> <p>Students from the MA Creative Writing form the editorial committee for the annual anthology of new creative writing from the College of English and Media, and benefit from the support and guidance of an Editorial Consultant with many years of experience in the industry.</p> <p>Each spring, we offer an exclusive writing retreat to our MA Creative Writing students – a rare and exciting opportunity to develop your work in a conducive environment at a key stage in the programme.</p> <p>We welcome students of any age and background who are committed to developing their practice as a writer.</p>
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7	Course Awards		
7a	Name of Final Award	Level	Credits Awarded
	Masters of Arts Creative Writing	L7	180
7b	Exit Awards and Credits Awarded		
	Post Graduate Certificate Post Graduate Diploma	L7	60 credits 120 credits

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	<i>Not applicable</i>

9	Delivery Patterns			
	Mode(s) of Study	Location(s) of Study	Duration of Study	Code(s)
	Full Time	City Centre	12 months	PT1094
	Part Time	City Centre	24 months	PT0961

10	Entry Requirements	
	Home:	Entry is subject to the submission of a suitable application portfolio
	EU:	7.0 or higher in Writing and 6.5 or higher in Reading, Listening and Speaking (in IELTS scores)
	International:	7.0 or higher in Writing and 6.5 or higher in Reading, Listening and Speaking (in IELTS scores).
11	Course Aims	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become practised in the expressive, imaginative, and affective resources of language, story, narrative structure and literary form • Learn and apply techniques and practices that improve the quality, precision, and control of your use of language, and enhance your ability to judge the quality both of your own work and that of others • Expand and apply your knowledge of literary culture and heritage in contemporary artistic and critical contexts, clearly, imaginatively and persuasively • Develop practices and disciplines that cultivate and embolden the creative imagination and the intuition and sensitivity upon which literary technique and inventiveness depends • Understand, evaluate and apply the dynamic relationship between creative writing, criticism, literary scholarship and other forms of research • Develop your writing practice through critical dialogue, which will include both giving and receiving constructive commentary • Cultivate and strengthen your creative agency in initiating, producing and articulating independent creative projects, in a range of media • Develop your knowledge and understanding of the working lives of creative writers and the professional and collaborative contexts in which they participate • Learn to situate and present your writing in multiple contexts and perspectives, from the local to the global 	

12	Course Learning Outcomes	
	Knowledge and understanding	
1	Apply the expressive, imaginative, and affective resources of language to conceive, compose, and complete compelling original literary artworks.	
2	Analyse and articulate the relationships between new literary artworks and the cultural traditions in which they participate.	
3	Evaluate the qualities of a wide range of literary texts on a cogent, reasoned basis.	
4	Employ appropriate methods to engage critically with literary scholarship and debates related to your field.	
5	Evidence a critical understanding of professional publishing practices, industry developments, and career opportunities for writers across various media.	
	Skills and other attributes	
6	Demonstrate independent research skills that develop and substantiate advanced creative practice and critical understanding.	
7	Apply appropriate critical, methodological and stylistic concepts and terminology in relation to creative writing and its contexts.	
8	Apply editorial skills and principles to sharpen and polish both your creative and critical writing to a professional standard.	
9	Identify opportunities and devise plans for demonstrable benefits of literary research and practice, public engagement and collaboration.	

10	Devise and manage substantial independent creative writing projects effectively.
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13	Level Learning Outcomes
	<i>Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 7 / the PG Cert, students will be able to:</i>
1	Critically assess the thematic and stylistic elements of selected literary texts.
2	Demonstrate proficiency in using language and literary techniques to develop and produce creative writing.
3	Identify and develop methods for creative invention through the use of literary conventions and cultural legacies.
	<i>Upon completion of 120 credits at Level 7 / the PG Dip, students will be able to:</i>
1	Apply advanced critical methodologies to interpret and contribute to literary discourse.
2	Exhibit a developed understanding of contemporary publishing and media contexts, and professional standards relevant to authors.
3	Identify and develop plans that employ literary research and creative practice for public engagement and collaborative initiatives.

14	Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
	<p>All taught courses within the College of English and Media align with our Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategy. This ensures that the teaching on your course will be shaped by the expertise in research and practice of our academic staff. The relationship between research and teaching ensures we can offer a curriculum that incorporates advances in research, emphasises the processes for producing knowledge and adopts an inquiry-based approach, designed to encourage new ideas and experimentation. Our strategy also ensures that the curriculum on your course will be designed and delivered inclusively. Our inclusive approach to curriculum and pedagogy reflects the wide range of contemporary issues which are of concern to our diverse student and staff population. This results in a curriculum which positively engages with and is willing to address and discuss issues of social justice and equality. Our approach is aimed at supporting the building of academic communities of practice and fostering high levels of scholarly professionalism in our students. All courses embed distinctive graduate attributes relevant to the subject and we hope that you will find your course engaging, challenging, stimulating and fun.</p> <p>How you will learn: Your learning will be through a mixture of practical workshops, seminars and tutorials. We recognise that students progress to postgraduate education from a variety of educational experiences and that university is a completely new educational environment for some of you. For that reason, you will find that there is a focus on supporting your transition which places an emphasis on developing both the confidence and the competencies required for success in your university assignments. We bring in a wide range of external speakers relevant to your specialism. The College of English and Media has excellent links with industry, community and scholarly partners which we draw upon to enhance your learning experience.</p> <p>How you will be assessed: All our assessments are designed to ensure that you meet the learning outcomes of your modules and thus of the course overall. Assessment will include written portfolios, essays, and presentations. You will be assessed as an individual but there may be times when you will be asked to work as part of a group. All modules offer chances for formative assessment, that is, informal assessments that are used to assess your understanding before the final submission of your work. Formative assessments also help inform the teaching strategy within a module, identifying areas where we can offer extra help and guidance. We will</p>

offer tutorials and a chance for you to discuss your draft assessments before you submit them. Once marked, we will give formal feedback on all work submitted, aimed at helping you improve future submissions and develop your own practice further.

What we expect of you: Your course is designed so that you experience learning through inquiry: questioning, investigating, examining, exploring, analysing and creating. By engaging fully with your studies and taking up the support we offer you, you will gain the confidence and skills you need to be successful in your studies. As you progress through your course, we will increasingly expect you to study independently. You will undertake a major project for which you will receive supervision, but we will expect you to organise your learning and undertake independent research. By the end of the course, as a result of your full engagement with your studies, you will be able to proceed with confidence, resilience, and a greater awareness of the contexts in which you will go on to work.

15	Course Requirements																			
15a	<p>Level 7:</p> <p><i>In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following CORE modules (totalling 180 credits):</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Code</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Module Name</th> <th style="background-color: #ffff00;">Credit Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EGL7xxx</td> <td>Reading into Writing</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7xxx</td> <td>The Writer's Craft</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7xxx</td> <td>Literature in Practice</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7xxx</td> <td>Specialist Workshops – Creative Writing</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EGL7230</td> <td>Major Project: Creative Writing</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value	EGL7xxx	Reading into Writing	20	EGL7xxx	The Writer's Craft	40	EGL7xxx	Literature in Practice	20	EGL7xxx	Specialist Workshops – Creative Writing	40	EGL7230	Major Project: Creative Writing	60
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EGL7xxx	Literature in Practice	20																		
EGL7xxx	Specialist Workshops – Creative Writing	40																		
EGL7230	Major Project: Creative Writing	60																		

15b Structure Diagram

FULL-TIME:

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
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Level 7

Core Module code: Reading into Writing (20 credits)	Core Module code: Literature in Practice (20 credits)
Core Module code: The Writer's Craft (40 credits)	Core Module code: Specialist Workshops (40 credits)

SEMESTER THREE	
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Level 7

Core EGL7230: Major Project (60 credits)

PART-TIME:
YEAR 1:

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
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Level 7

Core Module code: Reading into Writing (20 credits)	
	Core Module code: Specialist Workshops (40 credits)

SEMESTER THREE	
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Level 7

N/A	
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PART-TIME:
YEAR 2:

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
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Level 7

Core Module code: The Writer's Craft (40 credits)	Core Module code: Literature in Practice (20 credits)

SEMESTER THREE	
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Level 7

Core EGL7230: Major Project (60 credits)

16	Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment
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Overall student *workload* consists of class contact hours, independent learning and assessment activity, with each credit taken equating to a total study time of around 10 hours. While actual contact hours may depend on the optional modules selected, the following information gives an indication of how much time students will need to allocate to different activities at each level of the course.

- *Scheduled Learning* includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, contact time specified in timetable
- *Directed Learning* includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning
- *Private Study* includes preparation for exams

The *balance of assessment* by mode of assessment (e.g. coursework, exam and in-person) depends to some extent on the optional modules chosen by students. The approximate percentage of the course assessed by coursework, exam and in-person is shown below.

Level 7

Workload

XX% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	130
Directed Learning	804
Private Study	866
Total Hours	1800

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	95%
Exam	-
In-Person	5%