Course Specification

Course Summary Information		
1	**Course Title**	BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing
2	**Course Code**	US0787
3	**Awarding Institution**	Birmingham City University
4	**Teaching Institution(s)** (if different from point 3)	
5	**Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditation** (if applicable)	not applicable

6	**Course Description**
	Our **BA (Hons) English and Creative Writing** balances the practical craft of creative writing with the analytical and historical study of literature and/or language, allowing you to explore how texts are written, interpreted, and transformed across different forms and periods. Equipped with a rich knowledge and understanding of English studies, you will grow as an informed and critical reader of texts to produce your own original creative work. In workshops with expert practitioners, you will refine your skills in creative writing, focusing on elements such as narrative structure, setting, character development, and style. You will learn how to conduct research, to examine writing deeply, and to express yourself persuasively, logically, and imaginatively. At the heart of our English courses is a shared interest in words and stories, and an appreciation of the real difference they make in the world. Taught by world-leading academics in a friendly, supportive learning community, you will explore the power of language and literature in ways that matter today and to you. Alongside core modules in creative writing, flexibility and diversity of choice are built into our inclusive course for you to shape your degree according to your interests, strengths, and career goals. You can study and practice a range of forms, genres, and modes of communication from different historical contexts and theoretical perspectives, across literature, language, creative writing, and drama. Our courses include opportunities for work experience or peer collaboration as standard and culminate in a Major Project, which allows you to research and write about ideas and topics of your choosing. English at BCU is a top-20 research department for English Studies and research excellence is central to our taught courses. We focus on the practice and application of subject knowledge and skills to develop graduate readers, thinkers, and writers that excel in criticality, creativity, and communication. As a perceptive critical thinker, you will interpret and assess complex information and situations to form intelligent judgements and solutions. As a creative individual, you will produce new and imaginative texts, and devise interesting, challenging ideas. And, as a proficient, versatile communicator, you will be trained in clear and accurate spoken and written English to professional standards. Our graduates are characterised by their extensive knowledge and skills in English, and transferrable qualities that are sought-after by employers. These subject-specific and professional skills and attributes are embedded in the course to open a wide range of career

	paths and employment opportunities, including (but not limited to) education; writing, editing and publishing; advertising and marketing; public relations; and digital content creation.

7	Course Awards		
7a	**Name of Final Award**	**Level**	**Credits Awarded**
	Bachelor of Arts with Honours English and Creative Writing	6	360
7b	**Exit Awards and Credits Awarded**		
	Certificate of Higher Education English and Creative Writing Diploma of Higher Education English and Creative Writing Bachelor of Arts English Language and Creative Writing	4 5 6	120 240 300

8	Variation from the University Regulations
	Not applicable

9	Delivery Patterns		
Mode(s) of Study	**Location(s) of Study**	**Duration of Study**	**Code(s)**
Full Time	City Centre	3 years	US0787
Professional Placement Year	City Centre	4 years	US1326

10	Entry Requirements
	The admission requirements for this course are stated on the course page of the BCU website at https://www.bcu.ac.uk , or may be found by searching for the course entry profile located on the UCAS website.

11	Course Aims
	The aims of the course are to: • develop advanced understanding and inventive use of creative formal conventions • inspire and inform the production of new creative writing in prose, poetry, screenwriting and other creative forms • explore the imaginative possibilities and expressive power of language • promote critical reflection in the production of new texts, considering personal, literary, critical, historical, cultural, and professional contexts • foster wide and varied creative and critical reading • produce proficient and adaptive communicators • provide a basis for further study in English or related subjects and for the teaching of English at all levels • enhance graduate employment prospects through subject-specific and transferrable skills, including high-order critical, analytic and research skills.

12	Course Learning Outcomes
	Knowledge and Understanding
1	Analyse the development of creative writing in different contexts
2	Evaluate creative and critical forms, including the relationships between genre, conventions and media
3	Develop independent, imaginative, and polished responses to creative texts and tasks
4	Investigate how culture, language, technology, the economy, and environment affect the production and reception of texts
5	Appraise and apply critical, theoretical, methodological, and stylistic approaches and terminology in relation to creative practice
	Skills
6	Synthesise and test complex information and diverse evidence
7	Construct cogent arguments informed by rigorous judgements
8	Demonstrate professional and versatile communication and presentation
9	Initiate, manage and complete sustained and substantial independent projects
10	Work proficiently both independently and with others

13	Level Learning Outcomes
	Upon completion of Level 4 / the Certificate of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Identify, define and use technical requirements of creative forms and techniques, including structural elements and expressive devices
2	Interpret and respond to a range of texts using appropriate approaches, terminology and creative strategies
3	Communicate appropriately according to relevant presentation and referencing conventions
4	Recognise and demonstrate responsibility for own learning
	Upon completion of Level 5 / the Diploma of Higher Education, students will be able to:
1	Compare and analyse the distinctive creative characteristics and significance of a range of creative writing
2	Use creative forms, techniques, critical ideas and terminology in the discussion and production of texts
3	Recognise the relationships between writing, society, culture, technology, the economy, and environments
4	Produce creative and critical responses derived from independent practice and wide reading
5	Communicate effectively and with confidence according to relevant formal and presentation conventions
6	Reflect critically on and apply strategies for development in writing, research and collaboration
	Upon completion of 60 credits at Level 6 / the Bachelors Degree, students will be able to:
1	Apply imaginative insight, critical understanding and technical knowledge in the production of new creative writing

2	Evaluate and develop productive critical and theoretical approaches in the analysis and creation of texts
3	Investigate the relationships between writing, society, culture, technology, industry, the economy, and environments
4	Construct cogent reflections on writing informed by extensive independent practice and research
5	Communicate clearly and accurately according to professional formal and presentation standards

14	**Course Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy**
	All of our taught courses 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. **How you will learn:** Your learning will be through a mixture of lectures, practical workshops and seminars. Your course also provides an opportunity to undertake work-based learning through a placement. We embed flexible opportunities for you to access your curriculum including recorded lectures, blended learning, on-campus delivery and intensive delivery of some modules. We recognise that students progress to higher education from a variety of educational experiences and that university is a completely new educational environment for most of you. For that reason, you will find that in your first year with us there is a focus on supporting your transition which places an emphasis on developing both the confidence and the competencies required for being successful at your university assignments. Where appropriate, we will bring in external speakers or arrange visits relevant to your specialism. These may be from industry or be focused on a particular specialist academic interest. We have excellent links with industry, community and scholarly partners which we draw on to enhance your learning experience. **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 types may include written research reports, essays, case studies, practical work, portfolios and presentations. There is one exam, taken online, in an optional module in the second year of your course. You will be assessed as an individual but there may be times when you will be asked to work within teams and submit assessments as groups. 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 offer tutorials and a chance for you to discuss your draft assessments before you submit them. Once marked, we will give formal feedback and 'feed forward' on all work submitted, aimed at helping you improve future submissions. **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. In your final year 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 begin the next stage of your life as a confident, resilient and socially aware person.

15	Course Requirements

15a Level 4:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following modules (totalling 100 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL4055	Voices of Birmingham	20
EGL4053	Adaptation	20
EGL4054	Prose Writing	20
EGL4047	Key Critical Concepts	20
EGL4042	Craft of Writing	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 20 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL4049	Literature and Conflict	20
EGL4048	Language in Action	20
EGL4056	Genre	20

Level 5:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following modules (totalling 60 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL5073	Writing and the Environment	20
EGL5077	Writing Short Stories	20
EGL5075	Screenwriting	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete 20 credits from the following indicative list of School modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
ADM5000	Work Placement	20
ADM5006	Collaborative Practice	20

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value

EGL5076	The Romantics	20
EGL5074	Grammar and Style	20
EGL5071	The Victorians	20
EGL5065	Language in Society	20
EGL5062	Gender, Sexuality and Culture	20
EGL5079	Multicultural Literature	20
EGL5078	Modern and Contemporary Theatre	20
MED5217	Digital Storytelling	20
MED5202	Creating Compelling Content	20

Professional Placement Year (optional)

In order to qualify for the Professional Placement Year, a student must successfully complete the following Level 5 module:

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
PPY5013	Professional Placement	120

Level 6:

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete all the following modules (totalling 80 credits):

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6159	Writing Poetry	20
EGL6157	Major Project Preparation	20
EGL6151	Major Project: English Dissertation	40

In order to complete this course a student must successfully complete at least 40 credits from the following indicative list of OPTIONAL modules.

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Value
EGL6158	Modernism and its Legacies	20
EGL6156	Applied Sociolinguistics	20
EGL6138	The Gothic	20
EGL6141	Shakespeare Studies	20
EGL6143	Teaching English as a Foreign Language	20
EGL6136	Writing Creative Nonfiction	20
EGL6147	Moral Philosophy	20
EGL6160	Stage and Society	20
MED6196	Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates	20
EGL6155	Audio Drama and Podcast Writing	20

15b	Structure Diagram

Please note list of optional modules is indicative only. Students' choice will not be guaranteed for optional modules but a fair and transparent process will be adopted and shared with students.

Level 4

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL4055 Voices of Birmingham (20 credits) EGL4053 Adaptation (20 credits) EGL4054 Prose Writing (20 credits)	Core modules: EGL4047 Key Critical Concepts (20 credits) EGL4042 Craft of Writing (20 credits)
	Optional Module: EGL4049 Literature and Conflict (20 credits) Or EGL4048 Language in Action (20 credits)

Level 5

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO
Core modules: EGL5073 Writing and the Environment (20 credits) EGL5077 Writing Short Stories (20 credits)	Core module: EGL5075 Screenwriting (20 credits)
	Core-option module: ADM5000 Work Placement (20 credits) Or ADM5006 Collaborative Practice (20 credits)
Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL5076 The Romantics EGL5074 Grammar and Style EGL5078 Modern and Contemporary Theatre MED5202 Creating Compelling Content	Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL5071 The Victorians EGL5065 Language in Society EGL5062 Gender, Sexuality and Culture EGL5079 Multicultural Literature MED5217 Digital Storytelling

Level 6

SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO

Core modules: EGL6159 Writing Poetry (20 credits) EGL6157 Major Project Preparation (20 credits)	Core module: EGL6151 Major Project: English Dissertation (40 credits)
Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL6158 Modernism and its Legacies EGL6156 Applied Sociolinguistics EGL6138 The Gothic EGL6147 Moral Philosophy MED6196 Understanding Social Media: Practices, Cultures and Debates	Optional Module (20 credits). One of: EGL6160 Stage and Society EGL6141 Shakespeare Studies EGL6131 Writing Creative Nonfiction EGL6143 Teaching English as a Foreign Language EGL6155 Audio Drama and Podcast Writing

Professional Placement Year (Optional):

Students on the Professional Placement Year version of this course will undertake their placement after their second year of study. They will then return to complete their third year as indicated above.

16 Overall Student Workload and Balance of Assessment

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 4

Workload

18% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	216
Directed Learning	720
Private Study	264
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	93%
Exam	0%
In-Person	7%

Level 5

Workload

16% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	190
Directed Learning	730
Private Study	260
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%

Level 6

Workload

13% time spent in timetabled teaching and learning activity

Activity	Number of Hours
Scheduled Learning	150
Directed Learning	714
Private Study	336
Total Hours	1200

Balance of Assessment

Assessment Mode	Percentage
Coursework	100%
Exam	0%
In-Person	0%