

MA Creative Writing

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Writing, Publishing and Humanities
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Creative Writing
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	One year full-time Two years part-time
Sandwich period	N/A
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A

Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A
UCAS code	n/a
Route code (SITS)	CWMA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	There is no QAA benchmark statement for a Masters Degree in Creative Writing.
Date of most recent approval	March 2016
Date specification last updated	January 2024

Programme Overview

The aim of the course is to help students bring their creative writing (novel, collection of short stories, collection of poems or book of literary non-fiction) to publishable quality, or as near as possible. To that end, the course is designed to help students develop the artistic, technical and intellectual qualities of their writing and understand the professional context in which they are pursuing their chosen mode of creative work. The course supports students in the development of a manuscript, in the development of relevant skills of writing technique, in the development of their knowledge of their chosen mode of writing and others associated with it, and in their development of critical and evaluative literary skills in writing and spoken discussion. They will also be given advice about how to place their writing, and have the opportunity to meet literary agents, publishers and broadcasters. The course has an excellent record, in particular, of helping students secure contracts with publishers for novels, and has links with a wide range of literary agents, publishers, editors, broadcasters and other professionals connected with writing.

Bath Spa University has long been recognised as a pioneer and leading provider in the teaching of creative writing at undergraduate and postgraduate level. When Creative Studies in English began here in 1988-89, it was one of the very first undergraduate creative writing programmes in the country. Since then the University has continued to build a specialist team of experienced teachers and writers, including distinguished writers who continue to publish novels, poetry, narrative non-fiction and other kinds of creative and critical writing. The MA in Creative Writing, which started in 1992-93, has become one of the most highly respected courses of its type.

For all students, the complete MA course consists of CW7050, either CW7006 or CW7007, two context modules and CW7024. In trimester three of their first year, part-time students will take an unassessed programme of preparation for the Manuscript module, CW7024-60, which they will take in trimester three of their second year.

Programme Aims

1. To help students identify a planned manuscript (a novel, collection of short stories, collection of poems or book of literary non-fiction) and complete it, or a substantial part of it, brought to publishable quality or as near as possible. A student who submits portions of their manuscript for all the creative writing assessed assignments will finish with 60,000 words or the equivalent: probably not a complete novel but one within reach of completion.

It must be recognised that not all students who earn the award will reach publishable standard; nor will all the work that does reach this standard in the judgement of the examiners be successful in finding a publisher. Some work will be of the highest quality in intellectual and artistic terms but not appealing to commercial publishers. Some will simply be unlucky in the market place. A distinction mark certainly means that the course team believes that the work deserves to be published

2. To help students understand and accept the practical conditions faced by working writers of different kinds, and make realistic choices while holding onto the vision and passion that engender the writing.
3. To help students recognize and respond effectively to technical and critical challenges presented by their chosen manuscript.
4. To help students develop their technical, critical and personal skills in the field of creative writing through responding to each other's work in 'workshop' discussions.
5. To help students understand and respond to questions and challenges arising from the subject-matter, cultural themes, genres, traditions and other literary contexts with which their chosen manuscript is engaged.
6. To help students understand and respond to professional and intellectual choices and opportunities relevant to their chosen manuscript, including questions of how to place their work, and the role of agents, publishers and editors.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-specific skills and knowledge

In successfully completing the programme, the student will have acquired

A1 the ability to plan and completely or substantially write, from the point of conception or near that point, an original book-length (as appropriate to the mode of writing involved) work of prose fiction (novel or short story), literary non-fiction or poetry, such as to demonstrate practical and conceptual knowledge of the relevant field

A2 the ability to produce a substantial work as defined above that responds to complex questions and finds solutions to practical problems concerning literary form and subject-matter

A3 the ability to write short pieces of creative writing in the chosen mode that demonstrate a practical understanding of appropriate techniques and are suitable for editorial discussion

A4 the ability to reconsider and revise their creative writing in response to precise, comparative and analytical discussion in groups and one-to-one, in a way that demonstrates practical and conceptual understanding as relevant to the chosen mode.

A5 the ability to write analytically about literary texts, in terms of technique, language, form and content, and in response to complex questions at the forefront of the discipline, as relevant to their chosen writing project

A6 the ability to produce creative writing that demonstrates an understanding of technique, methodology, genre and literary and professional context (including, where appropriate, new developments in genre, new media and new forms of publication) as relevant to their chosen writing project

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

In successfully completing the programme, the student will have acquired

B1 Creative, observational, analytical, language and imaginative skills as required for the effective conception, design and substantial achievement of a manuscript of imaginative writing.

B2 The relevant methodological skills for examining incomplete or fragmentary experience and shaping it into coherent form for publishers and readers.

B3 Analytical, language and imaginative skills as required for the critical analysis and practical problem-solving assessment of their own and other writers' work, and for the precise and helpful articulation of criticism of other writers' work.

B4 Analytical and imaginative skills as required to understand how experience may be translated into language, and into conventional form or innovative expression; how writing can engage with tradition, literary convention and language as well as with the observed facts of the world; and how work can engage with the consumer of the literary experience.

B5 Skills of literary and cultural analysis to demonstrate the effective use of literary media and forms with reference to reading, research (as appropriate to the discipline) and systematic study.

C Skills for Life and Work

C1 Autonomous learning (including time management) that demonstrates the exercise of initiative, personal responsibility and decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

C2 Team working skills necessary to succeed in the global workplace, with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively, as well as the ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

C3 Communication skills that show the ability to communicate clearly to specialist and non- specialist audiences knowledge at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice, and the conclusions drawn from dealing with complex issues systematically

C4 IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the ability to develop new skills to a high level and to approach complex issues systematically and creatively

Intermediate awards

The full MA course consists of CW7050, CW7006 or CW7007, two Context Modules and CW7024 (a double module). Successful completion of two modules, including at least one Writing Workshop (i.e. not two Context Modules), earns the Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Writing. Successful completion of four modules, including at least two Writing Workshops, earns the Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Writing. Successful completion of all five modules earns the MA in Creative Writing.

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A3-6 B2-5 C1-4

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A2-6 B2-5 C1-4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

MA Creative Writing				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	CW7050-30	Professional Skills	30	C	N/A
7	CW7009-30	Prose Workshop 2*	30	R*	N/A
7	CW7007-30	Poetry Workshop 2	30	R*	N/A
7	CW7010-30	Writing and Gender	30	O	N/A
7	CW7011-30	Writing and the Environment	30	O	N/A
7	CW7012-30	Writing with a Poet's Eye	30	O	N/A
7	CW7014-30	The Writer and Place	30	O	N/A

7	CW7015-30	The Short Story	30	O	N/A
7	CW7017-30	Modernism and Postmodernism	30	O	N/A
7	CW7019-30	Narrative Non-Fiction	30	O	N/A
7	CW7021-30	The Love Story	30	O	N/A
7	CW7031-30	Historical Fiction	30	O	N/A
7	CW7032-30	Writing Now	30	O	N/A
7	CW7024-60	The Manuscript	60	C	N/A

Workshop Modules:

- CW7050-30: Professional Skills C for MA Creative Writing

One of these must be taken for completion of the MA in Creative Writing:

- CW7009-30: Prose Workshop 2
- CW7007-30: Poetry Workshop 2

Context Modules:

All optional, but two must be taken for completion of the MA in Creative Writing:

- CW7010-30: Writing and Gender
- CW7011-30: Writing and the Environment
- CW7012-30: Writing with a Poet's Eye
- CW7014-30: The Writer and Place
- CW7015-30: The Short Story
- CW7017-30: Modernism and Postmodernism
- CW7019-30: Narrative Non-Fiction
- CW7021-30: The Love Story
- CW7031-30: Historical Fiction
- CW7032-30 Writing Now

Manuscript module:

- CW7024-60: The Manuscript - C for MA Creative Writing

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

N/A for MA Creative Writing

Additional Costs Table

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Creative Writing, this means...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Will be equipped to complete works of creative writing to the best of their ability as informed by knowledge of the relevant techniques and professional contexts
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Will have practical experience in responding to the complex technical, emotional and intellectual challenges presented by the planning and development of a work of creative writing in a diverse and rapidly changing cultural and professional context
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners of creative writing
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Will be digitally literate and able to work at the interface of creativity and technology as required by their chosen mode of creative writing
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Will be internationally networked by studying alongside students from overseas and by encountering a diversity of international creative writing and creative concerns
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	This is the heart of the subject
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Will be critical thinkers, able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy, having honed these skills in creative writing workshops, tutorials and the written analysis of their own and others' work
8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for	

	citizenship in a local, national and global context	Will be ethically aware and prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context, having encountered, discussed and found practical responses to diverse ethical questions arising from their own and other writers' creative work
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Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
CW7 050- 30	Professional Skills	Clarification (but not change) of assessment pattern	Panel	2016-17
CW7 006- 30	The Novel 2	Change of Title to: Prose Workshop 2	Panel	2016-17
CW7 030- 30	Storyworld: Making Digital Narratives	Module deleted	Noted School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2019-20
CW7 016- 30	Contemporary American Writing	Module deleted	Noted School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2019-20
CW7 013- 30	Writing and Politics	Module deleted	approved by School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2020/21
CW7 024- 30	The Manuscript	Assessment change - word count updated	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7 006- 30	Prose Workshop 2	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7 007- 30	Poetry Workshop 2	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7 050- 30	Professional Skills Workshop in Creative Writing	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
All modu les		Updated to align with assessment policy,	Education committee June 2021	2021/22
CW7 050- 30	Professional Skills Workshop in Creative	Assessment change	Exceptional Modifications - May 2022	2022/23

30	Writing		
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Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
Addition of new modules: Writing Now	Panel	16-17
Part-time structure added	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme Structure Diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram - (MA Creative Writing)

FULL TIME		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
CW7050-30 Professional Skills		CW7024-60 The Manuscript
Required* Modules		
N/A	CW7009-30 Prose Workshop 2 CW7007-30 Poetry Workshop 2	N/A
Optional Modules		
CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment	CW7010-30 Writing and Gender	N/A
CW7012-30 Writing with a Poet's Eye	CW7014-30 The Writer and Place	
CW7015-30 The Short Story		

CW7019-30 Narrative Non-Fiction	CW7017-30 Modernism and Postmodernism	
CW7031-30 Historical Fiction	CW7021-30 The Love Story	
	CW7032-30 Writing Now	

Rule Notes: In Trimester 2, students must pick ONE R* module from CW7009-30 and CW7007-30. They are not permitted to select both.

In Trimesters 1 and 2, students must pick ONE Optional module.

PART TIME		
Year 1		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
Core Modules		
CW7050-30 Professional Skills	N/A	Preparation for CW7024-60 The Manuscript
Optional Modules		
N/A	CW7010-30 Writing and Gender CW7014-30 The Writer and Place CW7017-30 Modernism and Postmodernism CW7021-30 The Love Story CW7032-30 Writing Now	N/A
Rule Notes: In Trimester 2, students must pick ONE Optional module.		
Year 2		
Core Modules		
N/A	N/A	CW7024-60 The Manuscript
Required* Modules		
N/A	CW7009-30 Prose Workshop 2 CW7007-30 Poetry Workshop 2	N/A

Optional Modules

CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment	N/A	N/A
CW7012-30 Writing with a Poet's Eye		
CW7015-30 The Short Story		
CW7019-30 Narrative Non-Fiction		
CW7031-30 Historical Fiction		

Rule Notes: In Trimester 2, students must pick ONE R* module from CW7009-30 and CW7007-30. They are not permitted to select both.

In Trimester 1, students must pick ONE Optional module.

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) ¹	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills					Skills for Life and Work				
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	
7	CW7050-30	Professional Skills	C	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7009-30	Prose Workshop 2	R*	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7007-30	Poetry Workshop 2	R*	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7010-30	Writing and Gender	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7011-30	Writing and the Environment	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7012-30	Writing with a Poet's Eye	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7014-30	The Writer and Place	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7015-30	The Short Story	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7017-30	Modernism and Postmodernism	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7019-30	Narrative Non-Fiction	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7021-30	The Love Story	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7031-30	Historical Fiction	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7024-60	The Manuscript	C	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
7	CW7032-30	Writing Now	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) ¹	Assessment method		
				Coursework	Practical	Written Examination

				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written	In-class test	In-class test
7	CW705 0- 30	Professional Skills	C					1 x 2,500 words 1x 5,000 words 1x 500 words									
7	CW700 9- 30	Prose Workshop 2	R*					1 x 2,500 words 1x 5,000 words 1x 500 words									
7	CW700 7- 30	Poetry Workshop 2	R*					1 x 2,500 words 1 x 5,000 words 1x 500 words									
7	CW701 0- 30	Writing and Gender	O	1 x 6000 words				1 x 2000 words									
7	CW701 1- 30	Writing and the Environment	O			1 x 6000 words		1 x 2000 words									
7	CW701 2- 30	Writing with a Poet's Eye	O			1 x 2000 words		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW701 4- 30	The Writer and Place	O			1 x 2000 word		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW701 5-30	The Short Story	O			1 x 2000 word		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW701 7-30	Modernism and Postmodernism	O			1 x 2000 words		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW701 9- 30	Narrative Non-Fiction				1 x 4000 words		1 x 4000 words									
7	CW702 1- 30	The Love Story	O			1 x 2000 words		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW703 1- 30	Historical Fiction	O			1 x 2000 words		1 x 6000 words									
7	CW702 4- 60	The Manuscript	C	1 x 16,000 -25,000 words													
7	CW703 2- 30	Writing Now	O	1 x 6,000 words		1 X 2,000 words											