

MA Writing for Young People

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	School of Creative Industries
Main campus	Corsham Court until the end of the academic year 2022/23 ONLY. From September 2023 (academic year 2023/24), the location will be Newton Park.
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Master of Arts in Writing for Young People
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	n/a
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	The course is offered full time , with a normal duration of one year, from the beginning of October to the end of September, and also part-time , with a normal duration of two years.
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based.
Regulatory Scheme ^[1]	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)	WYMA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Please reference the QAA Masters Characteristics statements: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VrMk7NKLSUJ
Date of most recent approval	March 2016
Date specification last updated	September 2021

Programme Overview

The aim of the course is to help you to develop and continuously review your writing skills, and to enhance your understanding of the practical choices open to you as a writer for young people, and of the professional and cultural contexts in which you write. You will be offered advice on ways to make contact with an audience of young readers, e.g. through schools. We aim to be realistic about the world of contemporary publishing; you will meet editors and literary agents as well as writers and tutors. We also recognise that marketability is not the be-all-and-end-all of writing, and sometimes there might be original, skilled and ambitious work that is difficult to place.

Writing for Young People covers writing from the earliest years to the 'young adult' market. Though prose fiction is likely to be the main focus, you will have the chance to experiment, and maybe develop an interest, in non-fiction, poetry and picture books.

The writing workshop – a peer group of writers, led by an experienced tutor, discussing each other's work-in-progress in a practical, rigorous and supportive way - is at the heart of this course. Your central experience in this year (two years if you are a part-time student) should be one of moving your own writing forward with the support of the group. Building the trust and understandings necessary for this to work at its best is one of our main concerns as tutors. Our experience of the MA in Writing for Young People is that students leave at the end of the course with writing contacts, friendships and networks that will last them through the years to come.

Programme Aims

The aims of this course are to

1. Develop writing skills and knowledge in the practice-based discipline of writing for young people. By the end of the course you will have prepared work which provides the basis for an original book length manuscript of creative writing for young people, using the skills of editing and redrafting to bring it to as close to publishable quality as possible.
2. Support the development of writers who understand and accept the practical conditions faced by working writers for young people, and can make realistic choices while holding onto the vision that engenders the writing.
3. Support the development of a wide range of complementary skills, such as verbal communication, an awareness of audience, collaboration as part of team, working independently at a professional level, working to deadlines, organisational skills and critical thinking, which will further support you as a writer – but also in a wide range of other areas of work, and in different contexts.
4. Support you in reflecting on your own work and on the work of others in order to extend and deepen your understanding of writing for young people as a distinctive and valuable area of professional practice, and to bring criticality, analysis and originality to these processes.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

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

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

The MA in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University will deliver these outcomes with reference to the specific field of practice-based research in creative writing for young people. By the end of the course, you will have

A1. Prepared, to as close to a publishable standard as possible, the basis for a book-length manuscript for young people, or a very substantial part of one, using the skills of editing, redrafting and re-writing.

A2. Experimented with a variety of forms and/or genres of creative writing for young people, and for different age groups, and demonstrated an ability to make choices between them. You will have demonstrated skills to Masters level in at least one area of specialism in creative writing for young people.

A3. Commented critically and analytically on your own and others' writing in essays, articles and written commentaries.

A4. Demonstrated an understanding of current themes, issues and ethical considerations in the field of writing for young people, in relation to your own practice as a creative writer for young people.

A5. Demonstrated your understanding of the contemporary children's publishing industry and the professional demands on a working writer for young people.

A6. Demonstrated your awareness of local technical/craft points in your writing and larger strategic questions about it, including your awareness of the audiences for whom you are writing.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1. A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of professional practice in creative writing for young people.

B2. Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of creative writing for young people;

B3. Conceptual understanding that enables you:

- to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and
- to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.
- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;

B4. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level;

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 area of professional practice of writing for young people, 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

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A3,4 6

B1-3

C2-4

P gDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A3- 6

B1-3

C2-4

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Compulsory = R (ie 'required')

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single programme

MA Writing for Young People				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	CW7048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn	30	C	N/A
7	CW7041-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages	30	C	N/A
7	CW7049-30	Writing Workshop Spring	30	C	N/A
7	CW7043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	30	C	N/A
7	CW7044-60	The Manuscript (Double Module)	60	R*	N/A
7	CW7045-60	The Manuscript	60	R*	N/A

*CW7044-60 available for 2nd year PT students only in AY 21-22. All other students opt for CW7045 with reduced assessment

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.

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Writing for Young People, this means you
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 with skills as an author for young people, informed by knowledge of the relevant techniques and professional contexts, and with transferrable skills of effective communication, working in groups, creative and critical thinking, as appropriate for the global workplace.
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 for young people 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 required by your professional practice of creative writing for young people
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 your chosen mode of creative writing for young people
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, having studied alongside students from overseas and encountered a diversity of international creative writing for young people, with its associated creative concerns
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Will be a creative thinker and practitioner, as this is at the heart of the course
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Will be a critical thinker, able to express ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy, having honed these skills in creative writing workshops, tutorials and the written analysis of your 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 your own and other writers' creative work for young people

Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
CW 704 0-30	Writing Workshop 1: Writing for Young People	Assessment change and module coordinator update	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 704 4-60	The Manuscript	Assessment change and module coordinator update	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 704 0-30	Writing Workshop 1: Writing for Young People	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 704 2-30	Writing Workshop 2: Writing for Young People	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW 704 3-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	Module amendments sections 15,18,19,21	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
All modules		Updated to align with assessment policy,	Education committee June 2021	2021/22
CW 704 5-60	The Manuscript (CW7044-60 for 2nd year PT students only in 21/22)	Updated Module - amended assessment	approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
CW 704 3-30	Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing	updated Class Contact time and Independent Study	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW 704 0-30	Writing Workshop 1	Deleted module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW 704 2-30	Writing Workshop 2	Deleted module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW 704 8-30	Writing Workshop Autumn	New module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW 704 9-30	Writing Workshop Spring	New module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23

CW 7049	Writing Workshop Spring	Assessment Modification - change to word count	Exceptional modifications - 26/05 /22	2022/23

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme Structure Diagram
2. Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram

Full time over one year
Trimester One: CW7048-30 Writing Workshop Autumn CW7041-30 Context Module One: Forms, Ages & Stages
Trimester Two: CW7049-30 Writing Workshop Spring CW7043-30 Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing
Trimester Three: CW7045-60 The Manuscript

Part-time over two years
<i>Year One</i>
Trimester One: CW7041-30 Context Module One: Forms, Ages & Stages
Trimester Two: CW7049-30 Writing Workshop Spring
Trimester Three: Begin work towards The Manuscript
<i>Year Two</i>
Trimester One: CW7048-30 Writing Workshop Autumn
Trimester Two: CW7043-30 Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing
Trimester Three: CW7045-60 The Manuscript (CW7044-60 for PT students in 2nd Year 2021/22)

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules

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	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	CW7048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn :Writing for Young People	C		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X
7	CW7041-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages	C		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X
7	CW7049-30	Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People	C		X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	X	X
7	CW7043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	C		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
7	CW7045-60	The Manuscript	R*	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW7044-60	The Manuscript (Double Module) (21/22 PT 2nd year students only)	R*	X	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)	Assessment method													
				Coursework					Practical					Written Examination			
				Manuscript	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Work in Process	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
7	CW7 048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People	C					1x 2500 words and 1x 500 words	1x 4500 words and 1x 500 words								
7	CW7 041-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages	C			1x 4,000 words		1x 4,000 words									
7	CW7 049-30	Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People	C					1x 2500 words and 1x 500 words	1x 4500 words and 1x 500 words								
7	CW7 043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	C					2x 4,000 words									
7	CW7 045-60	The Manuscript	R*	1 x 16,000 -20,000 words													
7	CW7 044-60	The Manuscript (Double Module) (21 /22 PT 2nd year students only)	R*	1 x 20,000 - 30,000 words													