

# MA Writing for Young People (ONLINE)

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Writing, Publishing & the Humanities
Department	Creative Writing
Main campus	Online
Other sites of delivery	Other BSU campuses; external venues (optional)
Other Schools involved in delivery	n/a
Name of award(s)	A Writing for Young People
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	PgCert, PgDip
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	2 years part time
Sandwich period	n/a
Modes of delivery offered	Online
Regulatory Scheme <sup>[1]</sup>	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)	QAA, Masters' Degree Characteristics Statement, February 2020
Date of most recent approval	June 2022
Date specification last updated	January 2023

[1]This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

## 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 or organisations working to promote literacy with young people. 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 your focus, you will have the chance to experiment with, 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 these two years should be one of moving your own writing forward with the support of the group. Building the trust and understanding 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.

**Note:** this is an online version of the MA Writing for Young People, which has been designed in response to student feedback and the wish to offer a more flexible mode of delivery. The course of study and learning outcomes, opportunities for industry engagement, and collaboration with others are the same in both versions of the programme, adapted in relation to the method of delivery and the practicalities of this.

## Programme Aims

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 who 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

A1. Critical and systematic understanding and application of the technical skills of editing, redrafting and rewriting, as evidenced in the preparation of a substantial final manuscript, or proportion thereof

A2. Comprehensive and applied understanding of a variety of forms and/or genres of creative writing for young people, and for different age groups, and the ability to make choices between them.

A3. Critical and analytical reflection on your own and others' writing; and the communication of this in a range of formats and contexts

A4. Critical and systematic understanding of current themes, issues and ethical considerations in the field of writing for young people, and the application of this to your own practice as a creative writer for young people.

A5. Critical engagement with and a systematic understanding of the contemporary children's publishing industry and the professional demands on a working writer for young people.

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

### B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

B1. A systematic engagement with and critical responses to current problems and/or new insights associated with or at 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,
- to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses. and
- to 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. 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 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**

#### **PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes**

A3,4 6

B1-3

C2-4

#### **PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes**

A3-6

B1-3

C2-4

## Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required\* = R\*

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 and/or joint programme

MA Writing for Young People (ONLINE)				Status
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single
7	CW7148-30	Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	30	C
7	CW7141-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages (Distance Learning)	30	C
7	CW7149-20	Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	30	C
7	CW7143-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing (Distance Learning)	30	C
7	CW7145-60	The Manuscript (Distance Learning)	60	C

## **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**

The course is delivered in close collaboration with industry professionals and with those who have a professional interest in writing for young people and in young people as readers and writers. There may be opportunities to work collaboratively with them on discrete projects, where these align with your own aspirations and commitments.

## Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In MA Writing for Young People, we enable this...
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 transferable 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
C W 71 48 -30 C W 71 41 -30 C W 71 43 -30 C W 71 45 -60 C W 71 49 -20	<p>Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)</p> <p>Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages (Distance Learning)</p> <p>Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing (Distance Learning)</p> <p>The Manuscript (Distance Learning)</p> <p>Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)</p>	<p>Module co-ordinator change, contact hours change, and prep work change.</p>	<p>Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022</p>	<p>2022/23</p>

### Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
New distance learning-specific modules descriptors added for all modules	15th June 2022 - Curriculum Committee	2022/23

**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 – Writing For Young People

<b>Part-time over two years</b>
<i>Year One</i>
Trimester One CW7141-30 Context Module: Forms, Ages & Stages (Distance Learning)
Trimester Two CW7149-30 Writing Workshop Spring (Distance Learning)
Trimester Three Begin work towards CW7145-60 The Manuscript (Distance Learning)
<i>Year Two</i>
Trimester One CW7148-30 Writing Workshop Autumn (Distance Learning)
Trimester Two CW7143-30 Context Module: Contemporary Children's Publishing (Distance Learning)
Trimester Three CW7145-60 The Manuscript (Distance Learning)

## Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)	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	CW7148-30	Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	C		*	*	*		*		*	*			*	*	*	*
7	CW7141-30	Context Module: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages (Distance Learning)	C		*	*	*		*		*	*			*	*	*	*
7	CW7149-20	Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	C		*	*	*		*		*	*		*	*	*	*	*
7	CW7143-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing (Distance Learning)	C		*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
7	CW7145-60	The Manuscript (Distance Learning)	C	*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional

### Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, O)	Assessment Method													
				Coursework					Practical				Written Examination				
				Manuscript	Dissemination	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Work in process	Performance	Project	Skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written exam	In class exercise (seen)	In class exercise (unseen)
7	CW7 148-30	Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	C					1 x 2500 & 1 x 500	1 x 4500 & 1 x 500								
7	CW7 141-30	Context Module: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages (Distance Learning)	C			1 x 4000		1 x 4000									
7	CW7 149-20	Writing Workshop Spring: Writing for Young People (Distance Learning)	C					1 x 2500 & 1 x 500	1 x 3500 & 1 x 500								
7	CW7 143-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing (Distance Learning)	C					2 x 4000									
7	CW7 145-60	The Manuscript (Distance Learning)	C	1 x 1600-20000													

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R\* = Required\*; O = Optional