

# 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)	<b>Creative Writing</b>
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 2025

## 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.

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### C Skills for Life and Work

#### **On achieving Level 7 you will be able to:**

C1 **Work Independently** - Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional context.

C2 **Work with Others** - Plan for and actively engage in inclusive collaboration with others to tackle and solve complex problems and develop original insights.

C3 **Communicate with Impact** - Communicate complex ideas clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

C4 **Demonstrate Digital Fluency** - Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication in a professional context.

#### **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
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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 [↗](#)

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
<b>Confidently Self-Aware</b>	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	It is developed through sympathetic but precise and challenging discussion in workshops and tutorials. Context modules teach students to respond to intellectual, cultural, moral and political challenges to their work and to reshape the work accordingly, if necessary, without losing the vision.

<p><b>Emotionally Attuned</b></p>	<p>Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.</p>	<p>At the outset, and throughout, students in workshops are trained in the emotional skills mentioned above – especially in how to give and receive criticism. As their writing develops, the emotional questions it raises and reactions it elicits will be discussed in accordance with these methods. Context modules give students the opportunity to articulate, share and adjust their emotional responses (as well as their intellectual and moral responses) to a range of literary texts. The way these different kinds of response act upon each other is an important part of the process. In the students’ manuscripts the implications of these discussions will be part of the creative process.</p>
<p><b>Inclusive Collaborator</b></p>	<p>Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.</p>	<p>The workshops require and teach students to create a delicately collaborative environment, in which a diversity of responses to each piece of creative writing will be encountered and considered through conversation. Guest events augment this with introductions to forms of collaboration required in the professional life of a publishing writer of literary works. Context modules introduce social perspectives with implications for each student’s literary vision.</p>

<b>Adaptable Innovator</b>	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	All kinds of modules set up and explore the relationship between originality and precedent described in blocks one and two. Workshops do this in the process of developing style and strategy in each writing project. Context modules do this in relation to a broader picture. The manuscript module takes this relationship forward into the development and emergence of the long-term project.
<b>Critical Thinker</b>	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	The programme is designed to balance close creative work on the student's manuscript (and other pieces) with critical questioning and questions reflecting global priorities. In broad terms, the workshops do the former and the context modules the latter, but in practice both activities take place in both types of module. All of this comes to fruition in the manuscript, where the critical questioning continues.
<b>Forward Thinker</b>	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	The programme is designed to help students plan a long-term literary manuscript (a novel, sequence of poems, sequence of stories or book-length work of literary non-fiction) and develop that manuscript a substantial part of the way towards completion and a publishable standard. All modules involve students in a process of long-term adjustment (which sometimes means going back to make changes in the light of an evolving vision). Guest events and consultations with tutors (who are publishing writers) will also help students plan their literary career in the relevant part of the literary world.



<b>Ethical Leader</b>	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	The programme helps students develop empathetic skills in both the writing and the classroom discussion. Empathy is indispensable to the whole process. Context modules explore and evaluate ways in which writing engages with different social, moral and environmental questions, locally and internationally.
<b>Responsible Self-Starter</b>	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	Each student meets a variety of questions and challenges in the combination of these three modes of teaching – workshopping, comparison of their work with set texts, discussion of political, ethical and aesthetic criteria, and detailed mentoring of a manuscript across the year. This combination teaches skills of rigorous self-evaluation and experiment with solutions responsive to these diverse challenges.
<b>Compassionately Resilient</b>	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Providing safe yet rigorously questioning spaces, with the differences of focus provided by the three kinds of module.
<b>Digitally Resourceful</b>	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	As the manuscript develops, the programme will equip students with the practical skills needed for digital editing, while the context modules will set students practical tasks involving online research and evaluate the process and the results.

## Modifications

### Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
CW7050-30	Professional Skills	Clarification (but not change) of assessment pattern	Panel	2016-17

CW7006-30	The Novel 2	Change of Title to: Prose Workshop 2	Panel	2016-17
CW7030-30	Storyworld: Making Digital Narratives	Module deleted	Noted School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2019-20
CW7016-30	Contemporary American Writing	Module deleted	Noted School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2019-20
CW7013-30	Writing and Politics	Module deleted	approved by School of Creative Industries, SQMC, January 2020	2020/21
CW7024-30	The Manuscript	Assessment change - word count updated	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7006-30	Prose Workshop 2	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7007-30	Poetry Workshop 2	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by School of Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7050-30	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 modules		Updated to align with assessment policy,	Education committee June 2021	2021/22
CW7050-30	Professional Skills Workshop in Creative Writing	Assessment change	Exceptional Modifications - May 2022	2022/23
All modules		Updates to contact times and delivery	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26

#### Programme-level modifications

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

Part-time structure amended	Approved by Chairs Action January 2025 and reported to Curriculum Approval Panel March 2025	2024/25
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## Attached as appendices: [↗](#)

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

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## Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram - (MA Creative Writing) [↗](#)

FULL TIME		
Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<b>Core Modules</b>		
CW7050-30 Professional Skills		CW7024-60 The Manuscript
<b>Required* Modules</b>		
N/A	CW7009-30 Prose Workshop 2 CW7007-30 Poetry Workshop 2	N/A
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment CW7012-30 Writing with a Poet's Eye CW7015-30 The Short Story CW7019-30 Narrative Non-Fiction CW7031-30 Historical Fiction	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
<p><b>Rule Notes:</b> In Trimester 2, students must pick ONE R* module from CW7009-30 and CW7007-30. They are not permitted to select both.</p> <p>In Trimesters 1 and 2, students must pick ONE Optional module.</p>		

PART TIME
Year 1

Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
<b>Core Modules</b>		
CW7050-30 Professional Skills	N/A	Preparation for CW7024-60 The Manuscript
<b>Required* Modules</b>		
N/A	CW7009-30 Prose Workshop 2 CW7007-30 Poetry Workshop 2	N/A
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
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
<b>Rule Notes:</b> In Trimester 2, students must pick ONE Optional or ONE Required*module.		
<b>Year 2</b>		
<b>Core Modules</b>		
N/A	N/A	CW7024-60 The Manuscript
<b>Required* Modules</b>		
N/A	CW7009-30 Prose Workshop 2 CW7007-30 Poetry Workshop 2	N/A
<b>Optional Modules</b>		
CW7011-30 Writing and the Environment CW7012-30 Writing with a Poet's Eye CW7015-30 The Short Story CW7019-30 Narrative Non-Fiction CW7031-30 Historical Fiction	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
<b>Rule Notes:</b> Students will be required to take one Required* module in either year 1, trimester 2 <b>or</b> year 2, trimester 2 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)	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
7	CW 705 0-30	Professional Skills	C	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 700 9-30	Prosse Workshop 2	R*	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 700 7-30	Poetry Workshop 2	R*	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 0-30	Writing and Gender	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 1-30	Writing and the Environment	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 2-30	Writing with a Poet's Eye	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

7	CW 701 4- 30	The Writ er and Plac e	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 5- 30	The Sho rt Stor y	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 7- 30	Mod erni sm and Post mo der nis m	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 701 9- 30	Nar rati ve Non - Ficti on	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 702 1- 30	The Lov e Stor y	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 703 1- 30	Hist oric al Ficti on	O			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 702 4- 60	The Man uscr ipt	C	X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7	CW 703 2- 30	Writ ing No w	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) <sup>1</sup>	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	CW7 050-30	Professional Skills	C					1 x 2,500 words 1x 5,000 words 1x 500 words									
7	CW7 009-30	Prose Workshop 2	R*					1 x 2,500 words 1x 5,000 words 1x 500 words									
7	CW7 007-30	Poetry Workshop 2	R*					1 x 2,500 words  1 x 5,000 words  1x 500 words									
7	CW7 010-30	Writing and Gender	O	1 x 600 words				1 x 2000 words									

7	CW7 011- 30	Writing and the Environ ment	O			1 x 60 00 wo rds	1 x 2000 words										
7	CW7 012- 30	Writing with a Poet's Eye	O			1 x 20 00 wo rds	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 014- 30	The Writer and Place	O			1 x 20 00 wo rd	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 015- 30	The Short Story	O			1 x 20 00 wo rd	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 017- 30	Moderni sm and Postmo dernis m	O			1 x 20 00 wo rds	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 019- 30	Narrati ve Non- Fiction				1 x 40 00 wo rds	1 x 4000 words										
7	CW7 021- 30	The Love Story	O			1 x 20 00 wo rds	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 031- 30	Historic al Fiction	O			1 x 20 00 wo rds	1 x 6000 words										
7	CW7 024- 60	The Manusc ript	C	1 x 16,0 00 -25, 000 wor ds													



7	CW7 032- 30	Writing Now	O	1 x 6,00 0 wor ds		1 X 2,0 00 wo rds											
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