



Definitive Programme Document

Master of Arts in Writing for Young People

(Full and Part-time students)

MAWYP_ AUGUST 2016

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	College of Liberal Arts
Department	Creative Writing
Main campus	Corsham Court
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	NA
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	NA
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	NA
UCAS code	NA
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#.VrMk7NKLSUI
Date of most recent approval	2008
Date specification last updated	MARCH 2016

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 bring your writing to publishable quality or as near as possible, and to develop 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. The world of publishing is full of stories of great books turned down by fifty publishers before they got their chance.

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 drama for theatre, television and radio. The MA in Writing for Young People was started in 2004-5, building on the success of the MA Creative Writing, with the coming together of a team of tutors all of whom are publishing writers in the field of writing for children and teenagers, and has established a reputation for excellence. More than thirty of our former graduates have been successful in achieving publication.

Writing for Young People will include 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 written an original book-length manuscript of creative writing for young people, using the skills of editing and redrafting to bring it to publishable quality or as near 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. Where a publishable standard has been reached and the writing has commercial or publication potential, we aim to assist you in finding a suitable agent or publisher or in otherwise placing the work. The university 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 and other professionals connected with writing. Each year a number of these will visit to give presentations, talk with students and give advice. However, 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. The creative and critical skills acquired on the course are transferable to a wide range of other careers which require good written and verbal communication skills, an awareness of audience, team/group work, working independently at a professional level, working to deadlines, good organisation, critical thinking and creativity.
4. The course aims to help and teach students to produce creative writing of an artistic or intellectual quality at least equivalent to Masters level work as defined by the QAA framework – work ‘much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the discipline, field of study or area of professional practice’. In the context of creative writing, to be ‘at the forefront’ will mean producing original new creative writing that challenges the limitations of genre or extends the repertoire of an existing genre. A ‘literary’ children’s novel or collection of poetry clearly has the potential to display these qualities, but they are no less relevant to writing for younger, even the youngest, ages. A story that conforms to the conventions of a series or a genre can and should aim to be distinctive and original in its use of say, an unexpected viewpoint, character or setting, unusual specialist knowledge, or by a particular plot twist that widens our sense of what that genre can achieve. This understanding may be demonstrated implicitly, in the choices made in the writing, and in the analysis of these choices in reflective commentaries and context module essays.

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. Written, to a publishable standard or as near as possible, 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

PgDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A3- 6

B1-3

C2-4

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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	CW7040-30	Writing Workshop 1: Writing for Young People	30	C	
7	CW7041-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages	30	C	
7	CW7042-30	Writing Workshop 2: Writing for Young People	30	C	
7	CW7043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	30	C	
7	CW7044-60	The Manuscript (Double Module)	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.

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

Attached as appendices:

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