

Programme Specification

MA Creative Writing (full-time)

PFTZCWRITEHM

MA Creative Writing (part-time)

PPTZCWRITEHM

For students entering in 2023/24

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MA Creative Writing (full-time) - 12 months MA Creative Writing (part-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The MA in Creative Writing at the University of Reading has been designed with – at the heart of its structure and provision – careful attention to the multiple roles that writing may play in students’ future lives. Creative writing can simultaneously be a vocation, a career, and a transferable skill set, but not necessarily all three for everyone who chooses to follow it in a post-graduate taught setting. Few writers with a vocation are able to make it their career, yet they may apply its transferable skills in a wide range of careers and can follow ones that encourage it to be practised as a vocation. With this in mind, the MA in Creative Writing combines a spine of core modules which support vocational commitment and enhance skill sets through the conception, development, revision and completion of a writing project of the student’s own devising (ENMPD1 and 2), leading to the submission of a portfolio including the completed writing project and an accompanying essay (ENMCWD). Its suite of optional modules enhance the learning experience of students by preparing them both for the literary marketplace and for careers in which creative writing practice may play a significant part. The overall aim of the MA is thus to mentor writers at whatever stage in their careers in how best to develop and complete mid-sized creative projects, while also introducing them to a range of ancillary expertise closely related to the life of writing and writing in life.

Module information

The programme comprises of 180 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules. Compulsory modules are listed.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
ENMCWD	Creative Writing Dissertation	90	M
ENMMT	Materiality and Textuality	30	M
ENMPD1	Project Development 1	20	M
ENMPD2	Project Development 2	20	M

The compulsory spine of the MA in Creative Writing is formed by the two Project Development modules (ENMPD1 and 2) in which the writing of the student's creative writing project is mentored and evolved in a combination of individual supervision and group workshops for the first two terms. The two modules focus first on the effective planning, research and development of a writing project, then on the early stages of drafting text and revising both text and project in the light of difficulties encountered. These developmental stages are followed by individual dissertation supervision in the third term (ENMCWD) where the writing project and a reflective essay on it are brought to completion.

Students will also take the compulsory ENMMT to introduce them to study of, and reflection on, the practice of writing and editing, using materials at Special Collections.

The remaining 20 credits will be taken from the list of optional modules from the School of Literature and Languages or from an approved list of modules from across the University.

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Please note that part-time students entering the programme in the academic year 23-24 will replace the two compulsory modules ENMCWD Creative Writing Dissertation (90 credits) and ENMMT Materiality and Textuality (30 credits) with ENMCWDS Creative Writing Dissertation (80 credits) and ENMMAT Materiality and Textuality (40 credits).

The programme can be taken part-time over two years. In the first year of study, a student will be required to complete 40 credits consisting of the compulsory ENMPD1 in Autumn Year 1, an optional module from the suite in Spring Year 1. They will also begin work on ENMCWDS in Summer Year 1. They will then take ENMMAT in Semester 1 of Year 2, ENMPD2 in Semester 2, and continue to work on ENMCWDS leading to submission in Summer Year 2. The 80 credits for ENMCWDS will be awarded on the basis of the final submission of the creative writing project dissertation in Year 2, while progress in Year 1 will be indicated by a formative submission of work in progress.

Additional costs of the programme

N/A

Optional modules

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of any additional costs associated with the optional modules will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the programme. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Placement opportunities

Placement opportunities related to careers involving creative writing are collocated within some of the optional modules available in the Spring Term.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

You will be taught by means of individual supervisions, workshops and seminars. Assessment takes the form of written assignments with a subsidiary element of aural presentation for each of the Autumn and Spring modules (ENMPD 1 & 2), and a final portfolio consisting of the completed creative writing project and an accompanying essay which is submitted in the mid-September following admission to the MA for full time students, and one year later for part-time students.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for the programme may depend upon module combination, but a typical set of modules on this programme offers 80 hours of workshop and/or seminar teaching, and a minimum of 12 hours of individual supervision guiding independent study and work. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme is assessed by means of written assignments and an aural presentation for each of the first two terms of compulsory modules (ENMPD1 & 2) and by means of a portfolio containing the completed writing project and an accompanying essay at the end of the course.

Progression**Part-time and modular progression requirements**

Part-time students will need to complete their two 20-credit modules to progress onto the second year of the programme.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iv. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. In addition, the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and

- iii. students must not have any mark below 40.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 50 must not exceed 55 credits; and
- iii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 30 credits.

For PG Certificate

To qualify for a **Postgraduate Certificate**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 60 credits; and
- ii. the total credit value of all modules marked below 40 must not exceed 10 credits.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MA Creative Writing (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24

18 October 2023

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