

## Programme Specification

### BA Creative Writing and Theatre

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: WW84

UFCWXTH

UFCWXTHPE

UFCWXTHSY

**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	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Creative Writing and Theatre with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Creative Writing and Theatre with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A

### Programme information and content

The Programme aims provide you with subject-specific knowledge and more general skills. It will enable students to develop creative writing skills, and be able to exercise creative writing skills appropriate to the demands of various forms. They will also gain knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, dramatic and film texts, from a range of different periods. Students will become familiar with the variety of critical perspectives and analytical methods within and between the disciplines. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the disciplines of English Literature and Theatre. Students can also select optional modules which allow them to situate their study of film and theatre in relation to television forms and practices, permitting the exploration of how key concepts such as performance and genre are inflected across different mediums.

Part 1:	<p><b>In Creative Writing</b> Part 1 introduces you to writing in a variety of forms, and to debate about approaches to the study of literature, through critical and research exercises and close study of selected texts from a number of different periods.</p> <p><b>In Theatre</b> Part 1 introduces students to the academic study of theatre and performance culture across a range of approaches and practices, instilling foundational terminology and key disciplinary debates. Students get the opportunity to engage with the discipline both theoretically/critically and practically, learning the scholarly protocol of formal essay-writing and able to choose an induction in the safe and appropriate use of theatre facilities and equipment.</p>
---------	--

Part 2:	<p>In <b>Creative Writing</b> Part 2 gives you an opportunity to focus on various forms individually, and provides you with greater breadth of coverage, and studies texts within historical periods and generic traditions.</p> <p>In <b>Theatre</b> Part 2 provides opportunities to develop students' understanding of theatre and performance culture through the discovery and investigation of particular issues explored via in-depth discussions across lectures, seminars and workshops. Students also begin their process of identifying a Dissertation or Creative Research Project topic, leading to an increasingly confident use of study resources and scholarly methodologies.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	Throughout the programme, individual modules come with the option of an academic placement which complements and develops the learning on a module. Study Abroad opportunities are also available at Parts 2 and 3.
Part 3:	<p>In <b>Creative Writing</b> Part 3 gives you the opportunity to undertake more specialized and independent literary study, choosing your modules from a wide range of options. The dissertation module develops your skills in research, planning and writing.</p> <p>In <b>Theatre</b> Part 3 also fosters specialist knowledge in theatre via Options closely informed by staff research and advanced independent research and enquiry through the Dissertation or Creative Research Project on a topic of their choice, supported by staff supervision.</p>

### Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EN1CW	Introduction to Creative Writing	20	4
EN1GC	Genre and Context	20	4
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
FT1ATP	Analysing Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1RFT	Radical Forms in Theatre and Performance	20	4

Remaining credits will come from optional modules in the Departments of English, or Film, Theatre and Television or modules offered elsewhere in the University.

#### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
FT2IPC	Identity, Performance and Culture	20	5

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules in Creative Writing or English Literature. At least 40 credits to be taken from a list of modules in creative writing, available in the Department of English Literature.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Film, Theatre and Television.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

**Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):**

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time. If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

**Part 3 Modules:**

Students must select one 40 credit dissertation or creative research project module.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Creative Writing.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Film, Theatre and Television.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

**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 optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £150 to £250 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

In **Theatre** you will incur costs for theatre, cinema and/or gallery trips linked to Department modules and module assessments. These visits are an essential and very enjoyable part of your studies. We recommend that you budget between £60-to £100 for this per year. We secure discounted tickets in good seats through group booking, and travel costs can be significantly reduced by booking well in advance, travelling off-peak, and using Group Travel discounts and a 16-25 rail card. To help reduce costs, we also include visits to venues in Reading and Oxford as well as London where appropriate, and we invite practitioners to the department to perform/exhibit work and hold workshops and master classes for our students.

You are not required to purchase any practical equipment, as the Department provides the necessary equipment and facilities. If you require specialist materials for practical work, a technician will source this for you, following consultation with the relevant academic member of staff.

If you partake in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc. Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Erasmus and Study Abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

## **Placement opportunities**

### **Placements:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

### **Study Abroad:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

### **Teaching and learning delivery:**

In **Creative Writing** you will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminar discussion and portfolio tutorials. The Dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision.

In **Theatre** you will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials and, depending on your specialization and module choices, practical workshops and tutorials using our specialist equipment and facilities.

The contact hours for your Programme will be: Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 252 hours, Part 2 - 144 hours, Part 3 - 144 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount.

### **Accreditation details**

N/A

### **Assessment**

In **Creative Writing** assessment is conducted through a mixture of assessed portfolios, essays and formal examination.

In **Theatre** you will be predominantly assessed through coursework. Depending on your module choices and specialization, coursework may include essays and other forms of writing (such as blogs), practical work accompanied by documentation, videographic criticism, and presentations which may be accompanied by reflective reports.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

#### *Part 1*

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in the compulsory Creative Writing module EN1CW, and obtain a mark of at least 40% in either of the compulsory English literature modules EN1GC or EN1PE, at Part 1; and

(iv) obtain a mark of at least 40% in 20 credits of compulsory modules in Film, Theatre and Television at Part 1 (FT1ATP).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *Part 2*

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:*

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification  
Part 3: two-thirds

**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.**

BA Creative Writing and Theatre for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

19 August 2022

© **The University of Reading 2022**