

## Programme Specification

MA Creative Writing (full-time)

PFTZCWRITEHM

MA Creative Writing (part-time)

PPTZCWRITEHM

**For students entering in 2024/25**

**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
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	NAWE

### 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 ENMPD2), leading to the submission of a portfolio including the completed writing project and an accompanying essay (ENMCWDS). Its optional modules – drawing upon the university’s expertise in archival research, the history of publishing, literary criticism and persuasive writing – enhance the learning experience of students by preparing them both for the literary marketplace and for careers in which creative writing practice and pedagogy may play a significant part (the compulsory ENMMAT and a ‘basket’ of optional modules including the new ENMPBB and ENMWL which articulate creative writing skills with regard to publishing and the writing life). 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.

### Programme Learning Outcomes

-MA Creative Writing (full-time)

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	
1	Demonstrate substantial knowledge of the literary genre, including its history, in which you have chosen to work
2	Employ the writing techniques, formal conventions, and stylistic devices of the genre including its real-world institutions and reader relations
3	Articulate complexly interrelated structures in relation to the needs of others including readers
4	Demonstrate imaginative independence of vision and awareness of cultural sensitivities and issues
5	Prepare publication-ready word-processed documents to deadline and show ability to use current reviewing software
6	Use search engines, library catalogues and archival resources in self-generated research projects
7	Exemplify advanced levels of knowledge in the composition of English including an openness to reconsideration, revision, and self-reflection
8	Show constructively critical sensitivity when responding to the work of others in face-to-face feedback situations

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

### **Module information**

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

#### **Compulsory modules**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>
ENMCWDS	Creative Writing Dissertation	80	M
ENMMAT	Materiality and Textuality	40	M
ENMPD1	Project Development 1	20	M
ENMPD2	Project Development 2	20	M

#### **Part-time or flexible modular arrangements**

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 Semester 1 Year 1, an optional module from the 'basket' in Semester 2 Year 1. They will also begin work on ENMCWDS in Year 1. They will then take the 40-credit ENMMAT in Semester 1 Year 2, ENMPD2 in Semester 2 Year 2, and the second half of ENMCWDS leading to submission in 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 feedback on a formative submission of work in progress.

### **Placement opportunities**

There are placement opportunities related to careers involving creative writing collocated with the suite of optional modules in Semester 2: ENMPBB (Publishing and the Business of Books) encourages placements in publishing companies, while ENMWL (The Writing Life) invites placements in settings such as newspapers, magazines, podcast companies and the like.

### **Study abroad opportunities**

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 can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

### **Teaching and learning delivery**

The course will be taught by means of individual supervisions, workshops and seminars. Total study hours for the 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.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 through the submission of portfolios of original creative writing and reflective commentary. There is also an element of oral presentation in one of the compulsory modules. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

## **Progression**

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

50% on each module completed

## **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**

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Master's degree:

#### **Award of a Master's degree**

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 180 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 120 credits

(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

(iv) a mark of 50% or more for the Dissertation

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Master's degree, the following **further** conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

#### **Distinction**

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 180 credits and marks of 70% in at least 90 credits

AND

A mark of at least 60% in the dissertation

AND

No marks below 40%.

**Merit**

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 180 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 180 credits and marks of 60% in at least 90 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

**For Postgraduate Diploma**

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma:

**Award of a Postgraduate Diploma**

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 120 credits

(ii) a mark of 50% or more in at least 80 credits

(iii) not more than 20 credits with a mark below 40%

In addition to the threshold conditions for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, the following further conditions must be satisfied for a classification of Distinction or Merit:

**Distinction**

An overall weighted average of 70% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall weighted average of 68% or more over 120 credits and marks of 70% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

**Merit**

An overall weighted average of 60% or more over 120 credits

OR

an overall average of 58% or more over 120 credits and marks of 60% in at least 60 credits

AND

No marks below 40.

**For Postgraduate Certificate**

The following conditions must be satisfied for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate:

**Award of a Postgraduate Certificate**

(i) an overall weighted average of 50% or more over 60 credits

**Additional costs of the programme**

None.

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 2023.

**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 2024/25

8 August 2023

© The University of Reading 2023