

School of Humanities

Title of Programme: MA Creative Writing

Programme Code: HECWM

## Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:  
27 September 2021

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):  
Marjolein Groefsema



Signature

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

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### Summary of amendments to the programme

Date	Section	Amendment

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email [AQO@herts.ac.uk](mailto:AQO@herts.ac.uk)

# Programme Specification MA Creative Writing

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

## Section 1

<b>Awarding Institution/Body</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>University/partner campuses</b>	De Havilland
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	n/a
<b>Final Award (Qualification)</b>	MA
<b>All Final Award titles (Qualification and Subject)</b>	Creative Writing
<b>FHEQ level of award</b>	7
<b>Language of Delivery</b>	English

### A. Programme Rationale

The MA in Creative Writing is a one-year full-time and two-years part-time taught course, offering a range of distinct creative practice and theoretical approaches. It aims to develop professional skills in the area of Creative Writing by giving students the opportunity to implement their creative practice more broadly in professional settings. With up-to-date, relevant skills, understanding and knowledge, graduates of this MA will be prepared for employment in a variety of fields, such as community work, professional writing and other related professions.

The rationale for the MA is to provide students with a structured sequence of modules through which they can develop their knowledge and understanding of topics in Creative Writing. The Writing Workshops I and II: Creative and Critical Processes modules form the core of the programme. The workshop based modules give students the space to develop in the craft and art of writing, to experiment and to give and receive feedback on their creative work, while developing their critical thinking, creative decision making, collaborative working practices, research methods and practical approaches to publication.

The People and Places: Writing Communities module focuses on contemporary literature that features communities, both real and imagined. This examination of published writing allows students to focus on the role, responsibilities and ethical concerns that a writer must face when depicting community groups within a creative work.

The Working as a Writer module addresses professional practice, in particular entering competitions and seeking publication of short pieces of writing.

While this Programme has a strong professional orientation, students are expected also to engage in academic activities to extend skills in: creative and critical thinking, creative decision making, writing processes and styles; collaborative working practices, research methods and publication opportunities.

### B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

**Additionally this programme aims to:**

- Develop further knowledge of imaginative, literary and practical processes involved in the planning, devising, writing, and editing of a substantial creative body of work and reflect constructively on this process.
- Allow students to attain a broad knowledge of craft techniques and literary aesthetics and to apply the knowledge practically to their own writing while identifying emergent trends in the field and respond accordingly in their own practice
- Allow students to develop advanced communication and editorial skills through providing critique and feedback in regular, rigorous workshop environments
- Allow students to apply skills gained through reflection, tuition and workshop feedback to undertake substantial and frequent revision of their written work
- Allow students to translate theoretical knowledge of professional practice into practical applications, while ensuring observation of ethical standards
- Increase students' employability by providing students with opportunities to undertake practical professional activities

### C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
A1- A repertoire of advanced practical and theoretical craft skills involved in the devising, writing, design and editing of sustained pieces of creative writing.	Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of workshops and individual tutorials with supervisors.	Knowledge and understanding are assessed through written assessment in the form of creative writing of a publishable standard, essays, presentations, critical rationales
A2- An in depth knowledge and understanding of the discipline informed by current scholarship and research, including a creative and critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject.	Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/ learnt and to broaden their individual knowledge and understanding of the subject.	accompanying the creative writing, reflective reports and a dissertation.
A3- A clear awareness of audiences and outlets for creative work in their chosen genre		

Intellectual skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>B1 - Creatively and critically evaluate different kinds of writing and generic structures, including their own work and the work of their colleagues.</p> <p>B2 - Apply theory to practice at postgraduate level, whilst ensuring observation of ethical and legal regulations.</p> <p>B3 - Reflect upon their creative work and processes at a sophisticated level.</p> <p>B4 - Generate and shape pieces of creative work, using language precisely and imaginatively.</p> <p>B5 – Creatively engage with all genres taught on the MA.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are developed throughout the programme by the methods and strategies outlines in section A above.</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are assessed through the methods and strategies outlined in section A, above. Creative Writing and reflective commentaries will be used as formative assessments and feedback given in class.</p>
Practical skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>C1 - Plan and execute creative writing projects to a professional standard.</p> <p>C2 - Deploy a range of practice-based research methodologies within their field of practice.</p>	<p>Practical skills are developed through workshops, tutorials and in-class exercises (C1-C2).</p>	<p>Practical skills are assessed through coursework assignments (C1-C2).</p>
Transferable skills:	Teaching/learning methods & strategies	Assessment
<p>D1 - Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.</p> <p>D2 - Engage in collaborative discussion and work co-operatively and sensitively with colleagues as part of a team.</p> <p>D3 - Use initiative and take responsibility.</p>	<p>Transferable skills are developed throughout the programme.</p> <p>Skills D3 and D4 are developed with students learning to manage themselves and their time to meet assignment submission deadlines.</p> <p>D6 are developed in the workshops.</p> <p>Skills D1, D2, D3 and D4 are developed across all modules in the workshops, written work and presentations. For example students receive feedback not only on their knowledge and</p>	<p>Transferable skills are assessed through a range of assignments built into the curriculum, e.g. oral presentations, creative writing pieces, reflective commentaries, projects reports, writing exercises, essays and a dissertation.</p>

D4 - Continue to learn independently and develop professionally.

understanding but also on their ability to communicate their ideas effectively.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop transferable skills by maintaining a record of evidence and completing a personal development plan.

## D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (1 year) and part-time (2 years) modes, and leads to the award of a MA in Creative Writing. Entry is normally at Masters Level (with related degree qualifications and a satisfactory writing sample) but is also possible for a student to be admitted with a non-traditional background but a very strong writing sample. Intake is normally in Semester A (September).

### Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

### Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

N/A

### Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 identifies where each learning outcome is assessed.

#### Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

**Mode of study** Full time

**Entry point** Semester A

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
<b>Compulsory Modules</b>							
Module Title							
The Writing Workshop I: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1057	30	English	0	100	0	A
The Writing Workshop II: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1058	30	English	0	100	0	B
People and Places: Writing Communities	7HUM1056	30	English	0	100	0	A
Working as a Writer	7HUM1055	30	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7HUM1053	60	English	0	100	0	C

**Mode of study** Part time

**Entry point** Semester A

<b>Optional Modules (delete this part if not applicable)</b> Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
<b>Year One</b>							
People and Places: Writing Communities	7HUM1056	30	English	0	100	0	A
Working as a Writer	7HUM1055	30	English	0	100	0	B
<b>Year Two</b>							
The Writing Workshop I: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1057	30	English	0	100	0	A
The Writing Workshop II: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1058	30	English	0	100	0	B
Dissertation	7HUM1053	60	English	0	100	0	C

The award of an MA requires 180 credit points passed at level M, including the Masters project.

**Table 1b Final and interim awards available**

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of (normally):	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Masters	Creative Writing	180 credit points including at least 150 at level 7	3 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
Postgraduate Certificate	Creative Writing	60 credit points, including at least 45 at level 7	1-2 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)
Postgraduate Diploma	Creative Writing	120 credit points, including at least 90 at level 7	2, 3 Semesters	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

Masters and Diploma awards can be made "with Distinction" or "with Commendation" where criteria as described in [UPR AS14](#), Section D and the students' handbook are met.

## Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme is compliant with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been specifically approved by the University:

None

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## E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning

### Management

The programme is managed and administered through:

- A Dean of School who has overall responsibility for all programmes in the School
- An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who has overall responsibility for academic quality, assurance and enhancement with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School Education (Learning and Teaching) who has overall responsibility for learning and teaching with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School Education (Student Experience) who has overall responsibility for induction with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- A Programme Leader who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the programme
- An Admissions Tutor, with specific responsibility for selection
- A Heads of History who is responsible for all the modules on the programme
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the Programme
- The programme committee which has a membership which includes all of the above plus student representatives
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules

### Support

At university level, students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- Guided Learner Journey/Canvas, a versatile virtual learning environment
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- A Student Centre which provides advice on issues such as Finance, University regulations, visa applications, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- The Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Overseas Orientation
- A Medical Centre
- University Wellbeing Advisors
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- A Careers and Placement Service for all current students and graduates

At School level, students are further supported by:

- A Head of Creative Writing
- A Programme Leader to help students understand the programme structure, and provide confidential academic advice
- An induction session at the beginning of each new academic session
- Student Representatives on the Programme Committee
- A student support team
- Scheduled weekly Student Support and Advice ('Drop-in') hours for all academic staff for student support and guidance
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the Programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules
- A School Community Organiser (SCO)
- An Academic Skills Tutor

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## F. Other sources of information

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

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## G. Entry requirements

The normal entry requirements for the programme are:

An Honours degree plus a satisfactory writing sample. It may also be possible for a student to be admitted with a non-traditional background but a very strong writing sample. An interview is also required, which can be via telephone or in person.

International students should have an English Language assessment of IELTS 7.0 with a minimum 6 in each section and 7 in writing, or equivalent as determined by the School of Humanities.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

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If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact:  
[ask@herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk)

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to [aqo@herts.ac.uk](mailto:aqo@herts.ac.uk)

## MA Creative Writing

**Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules**

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

		Programme Learning Outcomes (as identified in section 1 and the following page)													
		Knowledge & Understanding			Intellectual Skills					Practical Skills		Transferable Skills			
Module Title	Module Code	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	D1	D2	D3	D4
The Writing Workshop I: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1057	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
The Writing Workshop II: Creative and Critical Processes	7HUM1058	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
People and Places: Writing Communities	7HUM1056	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Working as a Writer	7HUM1055	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Dissertation	7HUM1053	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x

## KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

- A1- A repertoire of advanced practical and theoretical craft skills involved in the devising, writing, design and editing of sustained pieces of creative writing.
- A2- An in depth knowledge and understanding of the discipline informed by current scholarship and research, including a creative and critical awareness of current issues and developments in the subject.
- A3- A clear awareness of audiences and outlets for creative work in their chosen genre.

### Intellectual Skills

- B1 - Creatively and critically evaluate different kinds of writing and generic structures, including their own work and the work of their colleagues.
- B2 - Apply theory to practice at postgraduate level, whilst ensuring observation of ethical and legal regulations.
- B3 - Reflect upon their creative work and processes at a sophisticated level.
- B4 - Generate and shape pieces of creative work, using language precisely and imaginatively.
- B5 - Creatively engage with all genres taught on the MA.

### Practical Skills

- C1 - Plan and execute creative writing projects to a professional standard.
- C2 - Deploy a range of practice-based research methodologies within their field of practice

### Transferable Skills

- D1 - Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- D2 - Engage in collaborative discussion and work co-operatively and sensitively with colleagues as part of a team.
- D3 - Use initiative and take responsibility.
- D4 - Continue to learn independently and develop professionally.

## Section 2

### Programme management

<b>Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements</b>	Creative Writing
<b>Type of programme</b>	Taught Postgraduate
<b>Date of validation/last periodic review</b>	November 17
<b>Date of production/ last revision of PS</b>	March 21
<b>Relevant to level/cohort</b>	Level 7 entering September 2021
<b>Administrative School</b>	School of Humanities

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECOS
HECWM	MA Creative Writing	100046