

Programme Specification

MA in Writing for Creative and Professional Practice

1. Programme title	MA Writing for Creative and Professional Practice
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body	
5. Final qualification	MA Writing for Creative and Professional Practice. Other qualification: PG Dip Writing for Creative and Professional Practice
6. Year of validation Year of amendment	
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	Full and Part-Time

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

This MA programme is for a range of prospective students encompassing creative writers, students in relevant disciplines, and professionals.

Students with a good second-class honours degree or higher in a subject appropriate to the chosen pathway (for example, English, Creative Writing, Film, Media, Journalism) are encouraged to apply.

We encourage writers, who will normally have a good second-class honours degree (as listed above); however, exemption can be made (at the programme leaders' discretion) for those with significant relevant experience (including evidence of experiential learning to an appropriate standard and demonstrable talent and commitment to writing, fiction or non-fiction).

We encourage aspiring and early career professionals with significant relevant experience including proven sustained narratives (such as reports).

The programme places significant demands on students' speaking, listening, reading and writing in English. Applicants whose first language is not English should provide overall IELTS results of 6.5 or higher, including a minimum of 6 in all components.

Where appropriate, short-listed applicants may have an informal interview.

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to support students in:

- Commitment to developing specialist skills in creative writing to a professional level;
- Specific ambitions within the media business (especially media management);
- A broader-based ambition to enter public life or one of the professions;
- Commitment to improving their existing position within these areas.
- A key aim of the programme is to provide students with a wider analytical perspective in combination with an intellectual flexibility that fosters adaptability, enabling them for example to write across platforms (navigating online collaborative platforms and promotion through social media), identify and target audience needs, and negotiate issues such as IP (intellectual property) legislation in order to take full advantage of emerging markets.

The programme aims to enable students to:

- Write creatively and persuasively at an advanced level in a variety of professional contexts;
- Rethink their work and career path in the context of the changing media landscape;
- Undertake research at an advanced level using a wide variety of sources and then integrate research material in

sophisticated ways to achieve particular creative aims, independently and in collaboration with others;

- Employ creative processes themselves and analyse the creative products of others;
- Comprehend ways in which reason and imagination interact in the creation of narratives and learn how to employ these interactions persuasively;
- Deploy a wide variety of skills in generating narratives that are applicable in a wide variety of environments, independently and in collaboration with others;
- Initiate and/or build on appropriate professional contacts, independently and in collaboration with others.

11. Programme outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of :

1. The professional contexts of contemporary writing practice,

Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- active participation in lectures and seminars, tutorials, and research supervisions;
- advanced level self-directed study; the generation of

research and production;

2. The creative and cultural contexts of contemporary writing practice, research and production;

3. Reflections of significant writers and critics from a range of platforms on their own influences and practices;

4. The craft and technique required for the practice of creating and understanding narratives at an advanced level;

5. How different modes of research inform both theory and scholarship at an advanced level;

6. His or her own creative and critical origins: influences, processes and purposes.

original narratives and critical essays submitted for assessment; staff lectures, and guest lectures from professional writers and practitioners, introducing a range of issues relating to contexts and practice of writing today, literary and professional; making use of opportunities, both those provided inside the university and beyond, for accessing professional contacts in chosen field of specialisation.

Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

critical and creative work; seminar presentations, group and individual; dissertation research project.

B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Conceptualise and

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:

active participation in lectures, seminars, tutorials, and

express ideas in writing, both critically and creatively, at a sophisticated level;

2. Consider and evaluate their work with reflexivity and reference to relevant theories;

3. Develop substantive and detailed knowledge in a designated area of a relevant field and engage with these critically;

4. Analyse, evaluate and exercise critical judgement in relation to a range of types of narratives at a sophisticated level;

5. Effectively organise and undertake research and problem solving in both practical and intellectual contexts for critical and creative work.

research supervisions; essays and narratives to briefs set within modules; independent study of and classroom discussion of core texts; advanced level self-directed study: independent planning and writing of narratives or critical work; Undertaking research (literary, historical, scientific, ethnographic, social, personal), as appropriate

Assessment methods

Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:

critical essays and creative works; Seminar presentations, group and individual; dissertation

C. Practical skills

On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:

1. Write a persuasive and

Teaching/learning methods

Students learn practical skills through:

the continual practice of creative writing through weekly

professional critique that demonstrates comprehension of creative decisions taken;

2. Conduct, synthesise, evaluate and draw on primary and secondary resource research to produce and evaluate at an advanced level: creative work; critical essays; and a range of media texts for different purposes;
3. Work confidently in a self-directed way on both small and major projects, demonstrating skills in time-management and personal organization;
4. Apply a wide range of craft and technique to the writing and editing of narratives;
5. Communicate meaning effectively and present work to the market for a range of platforms with an understanding of professional standards.

writing exercises set by the tutor and read to workshops; seminars which engage with professional practice activities; leading text-based seminars through oral presentations, with guidelines given by the tutor; independent study of various forms of writing by published writers; participating actively in individual and group seminars and tutorials

Assessment methods

Students' practical skills are assessed by:

critical essays and creative works; seminar presentations, group and individual; dissertation

D. Graduate skills

On completion of this programme the successful

Teaching/learning methods

Students acquire graduate

student will be able to:

1. Write independently with mastery of the complex and specialised skills and knowledge demanded by the art of generating narratives and critical texts;
2. Read and analyse texts with an advanced awareness of context, aesthetics, and theoretical foundations;
3. Negotiate contemporary professional contexts as appropriate;
4. Communicate at a sophisticated level orally within a collaborative context.

skills through:

the continual intensive study and continual practice of writing, editing and redrafting throughout the programme; instruction on critical practice and practical aspects of generating narratives; the professional standards of reading and presentation and the introductions made to professionals including at initiatives such as the annual Literary Festival.

Assessment methods

Students' graduate skills are assessed by:

portfolio of written course work and supporting materials;
dissertation.

12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

12. 1 Overall structure of the MA programme

See page 22.

12.2 Levels and modules	
Level 7	
COMPULSORY	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS for MA
Students must take both of the following: CMW4100 Media and Creative Writing (30 credits) CMW4200 Key Principles of	These modules run consecutively. Both of these modules must be successfully completed in order to progress to the Dissertation Project.
OPTIONS	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS for MA
Students must take 30 credits from the following: CMW4300 Sustaining the Narrative (30 credits) CMW4400 Writing for Performance (30 credits)	One of these modules must be successfully completed in order to progress to the Dissertation Project.
COMPULSORY	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS for MA
Students must take this 30 credit module: CMW4500 Research Methods (30 credits)	120 credits in total (including 60 credits from the core modules and 30 credits from CMW4500) required to progress to the Dissertation project.
REQUIREMENT for MA award	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS for MA

Students must take the following: CMW4600 Dissertation (60 credits)	180 credits in total (including 60 credits from the Dissertation) required to achieve the MA award
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12.3 Non-compensatable modules (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)	
Module level	Module code
Level 7	No modules on the MA Writing for Creative and Professional Practice programme are compensable

13. Curriculum map
See Curriculum Map attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
The work is marked using the University's standard 20-point scale. For specific issues, please see Middlesex University Regulations.
Self-deferral is not permitted on any modules within the programme. Students wishing to defer must consult the

Assessment Officer.

Postgraduate degrees are classified as Pass, Merit and Distinction based on the profile of grades at FHEQ level 7 (or above).

Classification by distribution of grades

Remaining graded credit must be distributed as in the link below:
<http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/Strategy/regulations/index.aspx>

Where the percentage of graded credit falls below that indicated, the outcome is as indicated in regulation E4.6

15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)

Placements are not offered on the programme; however self-initiated placements etc. are encouraged and will be treated supportively. It is important to remember that the programme is an intensive experience, so be realistic about what you can manage to get the most out of your study.

Work experience is a very valuable asset in planning a successful career and you are encouraged to gain a short-term placement or internship if you can work these around or into your study. Work placements are supported across the University by the Employability and Careers Centre.

16. Future careers (if applicable)

Students on the MA Writing for Creative and Professional Practice may be looking at future careers or enhancement of existing careers in publishing (as freelance writers or within the industry), media management, the promotional industries, education and/or the wider cultural sector. London is an international centre for media and communications opportunities and the programme has been designed to provide an academic framework that places students in a good position for employment as well as self-managed portfolio careers.

17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)

Students who are returning to HE after some years and students whose first language is not English are especially encouraged to use the Learning Support Facilities provided by Learning Resources; the Campus Student Office offers on-site counselling, careers advice and disability support services.

The programme also benefits from:

- Visiting speakers from the publishing and media industries;
- As appropriate, access to the Media suite for e.g. radio/video editing and media production;
- Middlesex practitioners and researchers with both national and international profiles.

18. JACS code (or other

JACS code 1, W800 (50%);

relevant coding system)	JACS code 2, P300 (30%); JACS code 3, N212 (20%)
19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	<p>QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Undergraduate Study in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English (Benchmark Statements for Postgraduate Study in these areas are not yet published) • The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

20. Reference points
<p>The following reference points were used in designing the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middlesex University Regulations http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/ • Middlesex University Learning and Teaching Policy and Strategy

21. Other information

Please note programme specifications provide a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information about the programme can be found in the rest of your programme handbook and the university regulation.

Appendix 4: Curriculum Map

Curriculum map for MA in Writing for Creative and Professional Practice

This section shows the highest level at which programme outcomes are to be achieved by all graduates, and maps programme learning outcomes against the modules in which they are assessed.

MA Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A 1	The contexts – professional, social, technical – of contemporary writing practice, research and production	C 1	Write a persuasive and professional critique that demonstrates comprehension of creative decisions taken
A 2	The contexts – creative, social, cultural – of contemporary writing practice, research and production	C 2	Conduct, synthesise, evaluate and draw on primary and secondary resource research to produce and evaluate at an advanced level: creative work; critical essays; and a range of media texts for different purposes
A 3	Reflections of significant writers and critics from a range of platforms on their own influences and practices	C 3	Work confidently in a self-directed way on both small and major projects, demonstrating skills in time- management

			and personal organization
A 4	The craft and technique narratives at an advanced level required for the practice of creating and understanding	C 4	Apply a greater range of craft and technique to the writing and editing of narratives
A 5	How different modes of research inform both theory and scholarship at an advanced level	C 5	Communicate meaning effectively and present work to the market for a range of platforms with an understanding of professional standards
A 6	His or her own creative and critical influences, processes and purposes		

Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B 1	Conceptualise and express ideas in writing, both critically and creatively, at a sophisticated level	D 1	Write independently with comprehension of and skill in deploying the complex and specialised skills and knowledge demanded by the art of generating narratives and critical texts
B 2	Consider and evaluate their work with reflexivity and reference to relevant academic theories	D 2	Read and analyse texts with an advanced awareness of context, aesthetics, and theoretical foundations
B	Develop substantive and detailed knowledge	D	Negotiate contemporary professional

3	in a designated area of a relevant field and engage with these critically	3	contexts as appropriate
B 4	Analyse, evaluate and exercise critical judgement in relation to a range of types of narratives at a sophisticated level	D 4	Communicate at a sophisticated level orally within a collaborative context
B 5	Effectively organise and undertake research and problem solving in both practical and intellectual contexts for critical and creative work		

MA Programme outcomes																			
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4
Highest level achieved by all graduates																			
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7

Module Title and Level	Module Code	MA Programme Outcomes																			
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4
Media and Creative	CMW41	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>									

Writing (compulsory; <i>Level 7</i>)	00																			
Key Principles of Storytelling (compulsory; <i>Level 7</i>)	CMW42 00		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining the Narrative (optional; <i>Level 7</i>)	CMW43 00			<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing for Performance (optional; <i>Level 7</i>)	CMW44 00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research Methods (compulsory; <i>Level 7</i>)	CMW45 00	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dissertation (compulsory, <i>Level 7</i>)	CMW46 00	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							

