

**Programme Specification for**  
***MA Novel Writing (Distance Learning)***



<b>1. Programme title</b>	MA Novel Writing (Distance Learning)
<b>2. Awarding institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>3. Teaching institution</b>	Middlesex University
<b>4. Details of accreditation by professional/statutory/regulatory body</b>	
<b>5. Final qualification</b>	MA Novel Writing
<b>6. Year of validation</b> <b>Year of amendment</b>	
<b>7. Language of study</b>	English
<b>8. Mode of study</b>	Full-time/ Part-time – Distance Learning

**9. Criteria for admission to the programme**

All applicants must already be seriously engaged in writing and should hold a good second-class honours degree or equivalent.

Applicants without formal qualifications but with evidence of experiential learning to an appropriate standard and demonstrable talent and commitment to writing will be considered.

All applicants should submit with their application a 2000-word sample of their original prose fiction writing.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of a minimum 7 score in IELTS or equivalent. Students must have a score of 7 in each element of the test.

Where appropriate, short-listed applicants may be invited to attend an informal interview (normally conducted online or by telephone).

## 10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- inspire students to write fresh, convincing and engaging fiction and reflective work, to a standard worthy of professional presentation;
- educate students in the knowledge and understanding of contemporary fiction markets;
- enhance students' ability to contribute critically to the writing community;
- promote students' independent research;
- foster the ability to develop professional contacts.

## 11. Programme outcomes

### A. Knowledge and understanding

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

1. The contexts – literary, social, cultural, professional – of contemporary writing practice and production.
2. Appropriate contemporary fiction and criticism.
3. The reflections of significant writers and critics on their own influences and practices.
4. His or her own creative practice: origins, influences and processes.
5. The craft and technique of writing and scholarship at an advanced level.

### Teaching/learning methods

Students gain knowledge and understanding through:

- guest and staff videos including interviews and lectures from professional writers and practitioners within the literary world, introducing a range of issues relating to contexts and practice of writing in Britain today;
- the independent study of a range of fiction, criticism, memoirs, diaries, letters, reflections and essays;
- the critical rationales students write for all original creative writing submitted for assessment.

### Assessment methods

Students' knowledge and understanding is assessed by:

- critical writing;
- creative work.

### B. Cognitive (thinking) skills

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

### Teaching/learning methods

Students learn cognitive skills through:

- independent study of and online

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyse and evaluate literary texts at a sophisticated, writerly level.</li> <li>2. Conceptualise and express ideas in writing, both critically and creatively, at a sophisticated level.</li> <li>3. Effectively organise and undertake research for critical and creative work.</li> <li>4. Make complex professional judgements relevant to writing at a professional level.</li> <li>5. Recognise and explore ethical and aesthetic dimensions of literature.</li> </ol>	<p>discussion of sample texts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tutor-led online discussions and textual analysis;</li> <li>• independent planning and writing of fiction;</li> <li>• undertaking research (literary, historical, scientific, ethnographic, social, personal), as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' cognitive skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• critical writing;</li> <li>• creative work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>C. Practical skills</b></p> <p>On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Write a convincing and professional rationale for the creative decisions taken.</li> <li>2. Apply a greater range of craft and technique to the writing and editing of fiction.</li> <li>3. Write and edit fiction to an advanced level.</li> <li>4. Present work to the market in a professional fashion.</li> <li>5. Conduct research for fiction at an advanced level.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students learn practical skills through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the continual practice of creative writing through weekly writing exercises set by the tutor and shared in online workshops;</li> <li>• independent study of fiction, criticism, memoirs, reflections, essays and diaries by major writers, as recommended by peers and tutor;</li> <li>• presenting work for tutorial discussion, including tutor-led supervision;</li> <li>• undertaking research (which may include market research), as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' practical skills are assessed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• critical writing;</li> <li>• creative work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>D. Graduate skills</b></p> <p>On completion of this programme the</p>	<p><b>Teaching/learning methods</b></p> <p>Students acquire graduate skills through</p>

successful student will be able to:	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assessment methods</b></p> <p>Students' graduate skills are assessed by</p>
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## 12. Programme structure (levels, modules, credits and progression requirements)

### 12. 1 Overall structure of the programme

The programme is organised in a series of modules over one year full-time and two or three years part-time. It consists of 180 credits at Level 7.

1. 4 x 30-credit modules
2. 1 x 60-credit module: the Dissertation.

The inter-term breaks are used for reading of core texts in preparation for new modules.

The emphasis is on learning to write to a professional standard, both through the critical study of contemporary fiction and through experiential workshops, where students share work in progress with their peers.

The programme is taught by established, practising writers and critics.

### 12.2 Levels and modules

Level 7

COMPULSORY

OPTIONAL

PROGRESSION  
REQUIREMENTS

Students must take all of the following:

**CMW4501**

**CMW4502**

**CMW4503**

**CMW4504**

**CMW4505**

**12.3 Non-compensatable modules** (note statement in 12.2 regarding FHEQ levels)

Module level	Module code
Level 7	CMW4501, CMW4502, CMW4503, CMW4504, CMW4505

**13. Curriculum map**

See attached.

**14. Information about assessment regulations**

Standard Middlesex University academic regulations apply.

**15. Placement opportunities, requirements and support (if applicable)****16. Future careers (if applicable)**

The programme offers very real opportunities for students to become acquainted with the realities of a writer's career, and with the possibility, with outstanding work, of launching of a career.

**17. Particular support for learning (if applicable)**

As a fully Distance Education programme, all learning materials will be online including videos with guest speakers as appropriate.

Students will be given individual tutorials and supervisions, with written feedback on drafts of assessed work.

Students will have access to a Subject Librarian for research advice.

**18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)**

W800

**19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)**

English  
NAWE Creative Writing Benchmark Statement

**20. Reference points**

The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- Middlesex University Regulations <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/>
- Student, Staff, External Examiners and Graduates feedback and comments
- QAA on Degree Characteristics
- NAWE Creative Writing benchmark statement
- FHEQ

**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 regulations.

## Curriculum map for MA Novel Writing (DE)

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*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.*

### *Programme learning outcomes*

Knowledge and understanding		Practical skills	
A1	The contexts – literary, social, cultural, professional – of contemporary writing practice and production	C1	Write and edit fiction to an advanced level
A2	Appropriate contemporary fiction and criticism	C2	Write literary criticism or critique creative practice of self and others to a high level
A3	The reflections of significant writers and critics on their own influences and practices	C3	Write a convincing and professional rationale for the creative decisions taken
A4	His or her own creative practice: origins, influences and processes	C4	Present work to the market in a professional fashion
A5	The craft and technique of writing and scholarship at an advanced level	C5	Conduct research in areas relevant to creative practice, which may include market research





