

Programme Specification and Curriculum Map

MA Creative Writing

Programme Specification



1. Programme title	Creative Writing
2. Awarding institution	Middlesex University
3. Teaching institution	Middlesex University
4. Programme accredited by	N/A
5. Final qualification	MA, PG Cert., PG Dip.
6. Academic year	2009-10
7. Language of study	English
8. Mode of study	PT (2009-10); FT and PT (2010-11 onwards)

9. Criteria for admission to the programme

Students should hold a good second-class honours degree or equivalent. The subject of the degree should be appropriate to the chosen pathway (Fiction, Science Fiction and Fantasy, or Creative Writing and English Literature). Applicants must already be seriously engaged in writing, and those 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 writing appropriate to their chosen strand.

Applicants whose first language is not English must provide evidence of a minimum 6.5 score in IELTS or equivalent. If students have a score of less than 6.0 in any element of the test, they are strongly recommended to undertake a preparatory programme.

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

10. Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- **Inspire** students to write fresh, convincing and engaging fiction or critical work, to a standard worthy of professional presentation
- **Educate** students in the critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary fiction and criticism
- **Enhance** students' ability to contribute critically to the writing community
- **Promote** students' independent research
- **Foster** the ability to develop professional contacts

11. Programme outcomes	
<p>A. Knowledge and understanding On completion of this programme the successful student will have knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contexts – literary, social, cultural, professional – of contemporary writing practice and production; 2. Selected contemporary fiction and criticism; 3. The reflections of significant writers and critics on their own influences and practices; 4. His or her own creative or critical practice: origins, influences and processes; 5. The craft and technique of writing and scholarship at an advanced level. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students gain knowledge and understanding through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guest and staff 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; 2. The independent study of a range of fiction, criticism, memoirs, diaries, letters, reflections and essays; 3. Critical essays, or the rationales students write for all original creative writing submitted for assessment. <p>Assessment Method Students' knowledge and understanding are assessed by critical writing and creative work.</p>
<p>B. Cognitive (thinking) skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse and evaluate literary texts at a sophisticated level; 2. Conceptualise and express ideas in writing, both critically and creatively, at an sophisticated level; 3. Effectively organise and undertake research for critical and creative work; 4. Make complex professional judgements; 5. Recognise and explore ethical dimensions of literature. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn cognitive skills through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Independent study of and classroom discussion of core texts; 2. Tutor-led discussions and textual analysis in seminars; 3. Essays with tutor-set theme or title; 4. Independent planning and writing of fiction or critical work; 5. Undertaking research (literary, historical, scientific, ethnographic, social, personal), as appropriate. <p>Assessment Method Students' cognitive skills are assessed by</p>

	critical essays and creative work.
<p>C. Practical skills On completion of the programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write a convincing and professional rationale for the creative decisions taken; 2. Write literary criticism or creative critiques at an advanced level; 3. Apply a greater range of craft and technique to the writing and editing of fiction; 4. Present work to the market in a professional fashion; 5. Conduct research for critical study or fiction at an advanced level. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students learn practical skills through</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continual practice of creative writing through weekly writing exercises set by the tutor and read to workshops; 2. Leading text-based seminars through oral presentations, with guidelines given by the tutor; 3. Independent study of fiction, criticism, memoirs, reflections, essays and diaries by major writers, as recommended by peers and tutor; 4. Presenting work for tutorial discussion. <p>Assessment Method Students' practical skills are assessed by critical essays and creative work.</p>
<p>D. Graduate Skills On completion of this programme the successful student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write independently with mastery of the complex and specialised skills and knowledge demanded by the art of fiction or literary criticism; 2. Read literature and literary criticism with an advanced awareness of its contexts, aesthetics, and theoretical foundations; 3. Negotiate the contemporary professional contexts of the broader literary landscape; 4. Understand how to build and conduct a career as a writer. 	<p>Teaching/learning methods Students acquire graduate skills through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continual intensive study and continual practice of writing, editing and redrafting throughout the programme; 2. The professional standards of reading and presentation and the introductions made to professionals at the annual Literary Festival; 3. Instruction on critical practice and practical aspects of working as a writer. <p>Assessment method Students' graduate skills are assessed by the material that accompanies the dissertation, and the dissertation itself</p>

12. Programme structure

12.1 Overall structure of the programme

The programme is organised in a series of modules over one year full-time and two years part-time. It consists of 180 credits at level 4. These comprise:

1. 4 x 15-credit modules
2. 2 x 30-credit modules
3. 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 4		
Seven modules, four at 15 credits, two at 30 credits, and the 60-credit Dissertation, represent the requirement for the award of Masters. Modules totalling 120 credits (excluding the Dissertation) represent the award of Postgraduate Diploma. Modules totalling 60 credits represent the Postgraduate Certificate. Detailed rules for each award are included in the MA Creative Writing handbook.		
COMPULSORY	OPTIONAL	PROGRESSION REQUIREMENTS
MA students must take all of the following: CMW4101 CMW4102 CMW4103 CMW4104	MA students must also choose two of the following, normally one of the three pairs indicated: Fiction: CMW4201 CMW4203 Science Fiction and Fantasy: CMW4202 CMW4204 English ELS4205 ELS4206	PASS in each case
CMW4301 Dissertation		A minimum of 120 credits as pre-requisite to take CMW4301.

12.3 Non-compensatable modules.	
Module level	Module code
4	CMW4101 CMW4102 CMW4103 CMW4104 Compensation may be granted on 1 x 30-credit module. Students may not write a Dissertation on the area which has been compensated.

13. Curriculum map
See attached.

14. Information about assessment regulations
Assessment procedures and regulations are set out in the Middlesex University Regulations: http://www.mdx.ac.uk/regulations/ . Students seeking to defer must consult the assessment administrator.

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

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)
Modules will be taught by seminars and workshops, 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, and a Royal Literary Fund Fellow for support with writing.

We are aware of the need to support a diverse range of students. This will be reflected in the choice of fiction studied, and we will provide learning materials in suitable formats for students with auditory or visual disabilities.

18. JACS code (or other relevant coding system)	W800
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19. Relevant QAA subject benchmark group(s)	English
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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*
- *English benchmark statement*
- *FHEQ*

21. Other information

This MA is available via credit accumulation. Students may take each of the 15-credit or 30-credit modules as stand-alone courses before making the decision to enrol for the MA. All students must fulfil the entry requirements for the MA Creative Writing and be appropriate for postgraduate-level work.

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 Creative Writing*

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	Contexts of contemporary writing	C1	Writing rationales
A2	Selected contemporary fiction	C2	Writing literary criticism or critiques
A3	Reflections of significant writers and critics	C3	Writing and editing fiction
A4	Students' own creative writing practice	C4	Presenting work to the market
A5	Craft and technique	C5	Research
A6		C6	
A7		C7	
Cognitive skills		Graduate Skills	
B1	Analysis of literary texts	D1	Independent writing
B2	Conceptualisation and expression of ideas	D2	Sophisticated reading
B3	Organisation of research	D3	Knowledge of contemporary literary landscape
B4	Ability to make complex professional judgements	D4	Knowledge of how to conduct a career as a writer
B5	Ability to recognise and explore ethical dimensions of literature	D5	
B6		D6	
B7		D7	

Programme outcomes																									
A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7
Highest level achieved by all graduates																									
4	4	4	4	X	X	X	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	X	4	4	4	4	X	X	X

Module Title	Module Code by Level																				
		A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Voice	CMW4101			X	X	X	X					X		X			X	X			
Narrative	CMW4102			X	X	X	X					X		X			X	X			
Character	CMW4103			X	X	X	X					X		X			X	X			
Place	CMW4104			X	X	X	X					X		X			X	X			
Fiction: The Short Story	CMW4201	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
SF&F: Short Form	CMW4202	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Fiction: The Novel	CMW4203	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
SF&F: Long Form	CMW4204	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Postcolonial Fiction: India and Tibet	ELS4205	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X			X	X				
Postmodern Fiction	ELS4206	X	X	X			X	X	X				X			X	X				
Dissertation (Fiction)	CMW4301	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	