

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26

Date created: 01/02/2020

Last amended: 17/12/2024

Version no. 1

1. Programme title(s) and code(s)

MA in Creative Writing

Postgraduate Diploma in Creative Writing*

Postgraduate Certificate in Creative Writing*

Notes

* An award marked with an asterisk is only available as an exit award and is not available for students to register onto.

[HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
100046	100%

2. Awarding body or institution

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time or part-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods

The normal period of registration for the full time MA in Creative Writing is 12 months

The maximum period of registration for the full time MA in Creative Writing is 24 months

The normal period of registration for the part-time MA in Creative Writing is 24 months

The maximum period of registration for the part-time MA in Creative Writing is 48 months

5. Typical entry requirements

A good undergraduate degree in a related subject (normally a 2:1 or above, though exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration) OR relevant professional experience plus material evidence of creative writing experience. Applicants whose first language is not English must meet the University's requirement in their IELTS (or equivalent) score – i.e. IELTS 6.5 (or equivalent).

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning

N/A

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to

- develop advanced craft skills and techniques in Creative Writing
- develop advanced research skills in Creative Writing
- develop advanced skills in critical reflection
- develop advanced skills in providing feedback and editorial advice to others

- develop writing skills to a high level
- raise students' ability to initiate and to carry out independent research
- foster students' independent thinking and judgement
- equip students with relevant presentational skills
- prepare students for future careers and/or further postgraduate work by enhancing the following transferable skills: enhancing communication skills (both in written and oral forms); developing teamwork and feedback skills; developing research skills, organisational skills, information-retrieval skills and decision making; encouraging individual planning and self-management; developing learning skills across the course; enhancing digital skills; developing understanding of the many professional, contemporary contexts in which writers work. Students recognise the development of such skills both through formal assessment, in which reflective commentaries ask students overtly to discuss transferable skills gained, and in more formative assessment and workshop discourse (both summative and formative as described in the programme outcomes grid).

Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Benchmarking Statement
- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- [University Education Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#) [Login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

8. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Advanced knowledge of particular aspects of the subject and of the appropriate methodologies needed to discuss them.	Independent research, workshops, seminars, supervision	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

ii) Concepts

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Advanced research methodologies and concepts in creative writing and Creative Writing Studies	Independent research, workshops, seminars, tutorials, supervision	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

iii) Techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Competence in advanced research skills, craft skills and techniques relevant to creative writers across different disciplines	Independent research, supervision, tutorials, seminars	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

iv) Critical analysis

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity	Independent research, workshops, seminars, tutorials, supervision, and the writing of reflective / critical commentaries, and provision of feedback to others in workshop environments	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

v) Presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to organise research and creative material to publication standard; to distinguish between the relevant and irrelevant, and to present clear oral and written arguments.	Oral presentation, seminars, workshops and supervision	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

vi) Appraisal of evidence

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to analyse and assess a variety of creative and critical issues, and to sustain independent creative and critical thinking at an advanced level.	Workshops, individual research, seminars, supervisions, lecture, oral presentation	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation

b) Transferable skills**i) Research skills**

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Knowledge of research skills and methodologies relevant to creative writing, and ability to apply these skills and methodologies in the construction of effective creative writing	Workshops, tutorials, supervisions, and the module Research Methods in Creative Writing	Creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation, peer group discussion in workshops

ii) Communication skills

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop advanced oral presentation skills and written communication skills relevant to writers; write to a high standard across different forms and genres, and for different audiences.	Seminars, tutorials, oral communication workshops	Oral presentation, creative work, reflective commentary, dissertation, peer practice and group review of each other's presentation skills in workshops, formative peer review assessment on online discussion forums.
Equip students with the knowledge and understanding, skills and attributes needed to work and live in a way that safeguards environmental, social and economic wellbeing, both in the present and for future generations.	Seminars, tutorials, oral communication workshops	Summative essay and formative assessment by peers of teaching methodologies developed by students during workshops on teaching Creative Writing and group analysis of future of Publishing in EN7042 "Applications"

iii) Data presentation

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Dealing with and presenting relevant bibliographic and other research material to construct effective creative and critical work	Research Methods in Creative Writing module: workshops and seminars, online discussion forums	Reflective commentaries, dissertation, creative work, presentation of work in discussion forums

iv) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop relevant IT knowledge and skills for writers	Relevant computer lab sessions, Research Methods in Creative Writing (module), independent study	Creative submissions, reflective commentaries and, if relevant, oral presentation; participation in group peer review of creative work on Blackboard discussion forums; writing literary reviews for the Course Blog

v) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Developing advanced craft skills in structuring and redrafting creative work; ability to tackle complex problems in research and writing	Research Methods in Creative Writing module, and the Dissertation in Creative Writing: supervisions, seminars and workshops	Creative Writing Dissertation; creative submissions; reflective commentaries

vi) Working relationships

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Provision of effective peer feedback	Workshops and seminars	Course blog and reflective commentaries

vii) Managing learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Ability to manage own processes of research and writing; ability to manage both shorter and longer creative projects in different forms and genres	Workshops, seminars, supervisions, tutorials	Creative Writing Dissertation; creative submissions; reflective commentaries

viii) Career management

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Developing advanced writing skills across multiple forms and genres; oral presentation skills; knowledge of the professional writing world	Workshops, seminars, guest lectures	Reflective commentaries, creative writing, oral presentation, course blog, module assessment for Applications: Publishing, Teaching and Other Stories

9. Special features

Independent learning, research-based problem solving, oral and written communication skills; guest speaker events; connections with professional external bodies, including publishers and literary

agencies, plus the Centre for New Writing's and Literary Leicester's multiple author events and masterclasses.

9a. Research-inspired Education

Students on this programme will advance through the four quadrants of the University of Leicester Research-inspired Education Framework as follows:

RiE Quadrant	Narrative
Research-briefed Bringing staff research content into the curriculum.	<p>Training in advanced research skills is fundamental to this programme. Students develop their knowledge of Creative Writing through work with internationally recognised experts, exposure to the latest research, and assessments structured to hone abilities in creative practice and critical reflection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-briefed: Teaching is delivered by leading experts in Creative Writing with specialisms including poetry, creative non-fiction, prose fiction and screenwriting. All modules draw directly on the teaching staff's published work and work-in-progress, giving students immediate access to cutting-edge research in Creative Writing and related fields. • Research-based: Through workshops, students select and develop their own specialisms, building knowledge of existing work in these areas. Students explore key sources where writers gain ideas, and how they can develop those ideas from initial inspiration to final creative product. • Research-oriented: Students reflect on key conceptions of research as creative practice, and use these theories to navigate their own research and writing processes. Throughout the course, they are encouraged to engage with contemporary literary and theoretical texts in their area, learning to read as writers. • Research-apprenticed: Students train in research methods, creative practice, and critical reflection. In assignments ranging from creative work, to reflective commentaries, to oral presentations, they develop advanced research skills, and advanced skills in oral and written communication. This culminates in a dissertation in which they work one-on-one with a supervisor managing their own extended project in their chosen specialism.
Research-based Framed enquiry for exploring existing knowledge.	
Research-oriented Students critique published research content and process.	
Research-apprenticed Experiencing the research process and methods; building new knowledge.	

As part of studying at a research-intensive university, students on this programme have the following extra or co-curricular opportunities available to them to gain exposure to research culture:

Research seminars, talks by visiting authors, Creative Writing workshops and informal book groups are among the extra-curricular activities that go on through the year in the School of Arts, Media and Communications. Creative Writing research seminars are open forums in which staff and postgraduates from the university and beyond talk about their latest research and present it for discussion. The Centre for New Writing organises talks from notable authors and professionals from the writing world, along with Creative Writing showcases in which postgraduate students often participate. All students are invited to contribute to the internationally-known blogs Everybody's Reviewing and Creative Writing at Leicester. A highlight of the year is the annual Literary Leicester festival, which has featured prize-winning authors from around the world, and a lively assortment of public events and workshops.

Teaching on this programme will be research-informed (it draws consciously on systematic inquiry into the teaching and learning process itself) in the following way:

The School supports all staff involved in teaching to gain an accredited Higher Education teaching qualification, in which they demonstrate their use of teaching theory to support their own practice and reflect on their current teaching and continuing professional development.

Staff on the programme participate in training from the university and other bodies (such as the English Association and National Association of Writers in Education) which updates their knowledge of educational best practice. Additionally, several module tutors have developments in education (historical or contemporary) as a specific research interest. They share their knowledge of teaching and learning developments with colleagues and students, including as seminar content on the programme.

10. Indicators of programme quality

The programme is overseen by the convenor, who, along with other teaching staff, monitors the on-going quality of the provision. Feedback will be obtained from students at regular intervals on the programme and reviewed. An External Examiner will be appointed to the programme to oversee the provision, and make sure it is in line with national standards. The programme will also be reviewed regularly at the Postgraduate Board of Studies in the School of Arts, Media and Communication. The programme is run by experienced, professional writers and lecturers in Creative Writing: for example, Dr. Corinne Fowler is director of the Centre for New Writing; Mr. Nick Everett is the founder of the Creative Writing undergraduate and postgraduate modules at the University of Leicester; Dr. Jonathan Taylor has convened M.A. programmes in Creative Writing at previous institutions, and Dr. Harry Whitehead is an experienced lecturer in Creative Writing at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels. Dr. Harry Whitehead is also an elected member of the Higher Education Committee of the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE). External Examiners have confirmed that the assessment strategy, standard of achievement, design and delivery of the curriculum are effective and of similar standard to other comparable programmes in the sector.

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of taught postgraduate award and classification set out in [Senate Regulations](#) – see the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional award requirements for this programme have been approved:

- Candidates who fail to achieve the requirements for the award of a Master's degree may be considered for the award of Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate, subject to meeting the requirements under the scheme of assessment.

12. Progression points

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

The following additional progression requirements for this programme have been approved:

- A Board of Examiners meeting will convene at the conclusion of the taught part of the course, to assess whether students can proceed to the dissertation stage in line with the requirements set out in regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes.

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Examiners for an intermediate/exit award where appropriate.

13. Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions

As defined in [Senate Regulations](#) - refer to the version of *Senate Regulation 6 governing taught postgraduate programmes of study* relevant to year of entry.

14. External Examiners reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

15. Additional features (e.g. timetable for admissions)

N/A

Programme Specification (Postgraduate)**FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2025/26**

Date created: 01/02/2020

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Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

MA Creative Writing**Credit breakdown**

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2	Other delivery period
Core taught	n/a	60 credits	60 credits	n/a
Optional	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dissertation/project	n/a	n/a	n/a	60 credits

180 credits in total

Level 7/Year 1 2025/26

Full time

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7040	Research Methods in Creative Writing	30 credits
Semester 1	EN7041	Styles: Advanced Creative Writing Workshop 1	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7042	Applications: Publishing, Teaching and Other Stories	30 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	EN7043	Substances: Advanced Creative Writing Workshop 2	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7044	Dissertation in Creative Writing	60 credits

Part-time

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7040	Research Methods in Creative Writing	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7042	Applications: Publishing, Teaching and Other Stories	30 credits

Notes

N/A

Level 7/Year 2 2026/27

Part-time

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	EN7041	Styles: Advanced Creative Writing Workshop 1	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7043	Substances: Advanced Creative Writing Workshop 2	30 credits
Semester 2	EN7044	Dissertation in Creative Writing	60 credits

Notes

N/A

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See taught postgraduate [module specification database](#) [Login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).