UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

1. **Programme Title(s):**
    MA Modern and Contemporary
   LiteraturePostgraduate Diploma in Modern
   Literature* Postgraduate Certificate in Modern
   Literature*

   MA in Modern Literature and Creative Writing
   Postgraduate Diploma in Modern Literature and Creative Writing*
   Postgraduate Certificate in Modern Literature and Creative Writing*

   * These awards are only available as exit awards, and are not available for students to register onto.

2. **Awarding body or institution:**
   University of Leicester

3. **a) Mode   of study Full-time and Part-time**

   b) Type of study Ignite blended learning

4. **Registration periods:**

   Full Time
   The normal period of registration is 12 months
   The maximum period of registration is 24 months

   Part Time
   The normal period of registration is 24 months
   The maximum period of registration is 48 months

5. **Typical entry requirements:**
   Normally an upper second class honours or equivalent degree in English. Those without such qualifications are either required to satisfy the Chair and Director of Postgraduate Study in a qualifying exam (usually an essay) or are required to satisfy the University that previous training and experience provides sufficient qualification. Applicants whose first language is not English must meet the University's requirement in their IELTS (or equivalent) score of 6.5.

6. **Accreditation of Prior Learning:**
   No accreditation of prior learning is currently recognised on this programme.

7. **Programme aims:**
   The programme aims
     - To enable students to examine modern literature from four conventional approaches (the study of an author, a movement, a genre, a decade) and to reconsider these from the perspective of cutting-edge literary and cultural theory
     - To develop students' ability to initiate and to carry out independent research
     - To foster students' independent thinking and judgment, and to further their skills in critical analysis, writing, and bibliography and research methods
     - To equip students with relevant presentational skills
     - To prepare students for future careers and/or further postgraduate work by enhancing the following transferable skills: accessing, retrieving, organising and presenting information from a variety of sources; thinking clearly and independently; presenting

complex ideas and arguments clearly and effectively in both verbal and written forms; writing and presenting to a professional standard; the effective solving of technical and intellectual problems; working with others in gathering, analysing and discussing information; managing and organising time; using up-to-date IT.

8. **Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**
   - QAA Benchmarking Statement
   - Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
   - UK Quality Code for Higher Education
   - University Learning Strategy
   - University Assessment Strategy
   - University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
   - External Examiners' reports (annual)
   - United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
   - Student Destinations Data

9. **Programme Outcomes:**

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Subject and Professional skills		
Knowledge		
Advanced knowledge of particular aspects of the subject and of the scholarly registers and methodologies needed to discuss it.	Independent research, seminars, supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Understanding of central features of craft of writing.	Seminars, workshops, supervisions, digital discussions	Creative writing and reflective commentaries.
Concepts		
Author-, period-, movement-, and genre-based study contextualised by literary and cultural theory.	Independent research, seminars, supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Techniques		
Mastery of bibliography and research methods, writing, oral and critical skills.	Research Methods core module in all aspects of the topic. Seminars, workshops, supervisions, digital discussions.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Practical control of central features of craft of writing.		Creative writing
Critical analysis		
Ability to apply understanding of concepts and techniques with independence, rigour and self-reflexivity.	Independent research, seminars, supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Presentation		
Ability to organise research material to publication/conference standard; to distinguish between the relevant and irrelevant and to present clear oral and written arguments.	Seminars and supervision plus formal presentation.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.
Appraisal of evidence		

Ability to analyse and critically assess a variety of complex textual, conceptual and historical issues, to assess the relevance of a wide range of primary and secondary sources, to sustain an independent argument at an advanced level.	Seminars and supervision.	Oral presentations, essays, and dissertation.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(b) Transferable skills		
Research skills		
Progressive improvement in the ability to locate, organise and marshal evidence, report on findings, analyse complex ideas and comment on them in seminars; conference presentation skills; group work; peer assessment.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.
Communication skills		
Ability to deliver oral presentations to professional standard, to respond to questioning, to write clearly and cogently.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions; supervisions and feedback from reviews, tutors and fellow students in group work.	Seminar and dissertation presentations, group work.
Data presentation		
Ability to present research clearly and effectively using appropriate IT skills.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.
Working relationships		
Knowing how, and when, to draw on the knowledge and expertise of others; ability to comment on ideas in seminars; group work; peer assessment.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions; pre-dissertation proposal session and dissertation proposal presentation.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.
Managing learning		
Identifying crucial critical issues, identifying a sound research project, drawing up a realistic research timetable, time management in writing and presentation, and reflecting on and revising results.	Research Methods module, seminars, supervised research, and presentation sessions.	Essays, oral presentations, dissertation, pre-dissertation proposal presentation.
Career management		
Consideration of career plans; self-reflection in terms of intellectual and personal strengths and weaknesses; awareness of career options	Personal Tutor system; Careers Service.	PDP

Students recognise their development of transferrable skills through reflective discussion in personal tutor meetings at the beginning and end of each semester.

10. **Special features:**

   Independent learning, research-based problem solving, oral and written communication skills.

11. **Indications of programme quality:**

   A Modern Literature MA has been run by the Department of English for more than twenty-five years. Originally it was MA in Modern English and American Literature, chaired by Philip Dodd (former Chairman of the Institute of Contemporary Arts). It was then revised in the early 1980s as MA in Modern Literature: Theory and Practice to address a perceived lack of training in literary theory and to exploit the market for a master's course concentrating on theory.

   Later it became MA in Modern Literature; the emphasis on introducing theory was reduced because teaching in this field is now widespread at undergraduate level. More recently, the addition of a Creative Writing pathway has led to the MA in Modern Literature and Creative Writing, supported by the appointment of Creative Writing tutors. Since the establishment of the MA Creative Writing, the pathway has remained a popular route. This, then, has always been a course sensitive to pedagogic needs, and its survival in such a fierce market of similar degrees is in itself testament to its reputation.

   Many of our former students have gone on to become university lecturers, to write books and to take up a wide variety of senior professional careers. The course is now established as a field-leader and after some lean years, thanks to student debt and the paucity of funding, the MA now recruits well and consistently in a fiercely competitive market, attracting a range of UK and international students. The fact that a significant proportion of the students in each year's cohort have chosen to stay on after taking the BA in English is testimony not only to the appeal of the programme but also to students' confidence in the quality of the School's teaching and research culture.

   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.

12. **Scheme of Assessment**

   This programme follows the University's regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes:
   http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes

13. **Progression points**

   In accordance with SR 6: the University's regulations governing taught postgraduate programmes http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/regulations/general-regulations-for-taught-programmes .

   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.

   Students who meet progression requirements can proceed to the dissertation stage; additionally, students who have successfully completed at least one creative writing option module may, if they wish, proceed to writing a creative dissertation.

   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 award where appropriate.

14. **Rules relating to re-sits or re-submissions:**
   As defined in Senate Regulation 6: Regulations governing Taught Postgraduate Programmes of Study (see Senate Regulation 6)

15. **External Examiners**
   The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External

Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations) for 2020-21

Full Time

	Module Code	Semester		Module Title	Credits
Compulsory	EN7001	1		Research Methods and Writing Skills I	15
	EN7031	1		Modern Literature and Theory I	30
	EN7032	2		Modern Literature and Theory II	30
	EN7033		*	Critical Dissertation (MA ML)	60
OR	EN7044		*	Creative Dissertation	60
Optional					
	EN7133	1		Poetry Writing and Contemporary Poetry	15
	EN7134	1		Queer Fiction	15
	EN7135	2		Writing Fiction	15
	EN7139	2		Caribbean Literature	15
	EN7252	2		Twenty-First Century Fiction	15

Part Time

Year One

	Module Code	Semester	Module Title	Credits
Compulsory	EN7001	1	Research Methods and Writing Skills I	15
Compulsory	EN7031	1	Modern Literature and Theory I	30
Compulsory	EN7032	2	Modern Literature and Theory II	30

Year Two

	Module Code	Semester		Module Title	Credits
Optional					
	EN7133	1		Poetry Writing and Contemporary Poetry	15
	EN7134	1		Queer Fiction	15
	EN7135	2		Writing Fiction	15
	EN7139	2		Caribbean Literature	15
	EN7252	2		Twenty-First Century Fiction	15
	EN7033		*	Critical Dissertation (MA ML)	60
	EN7044		*	Creative Dissertation	60

Compulsory only for the degree of M.A.

Students take one optional module in Semester 1 and two optional modules in Semester 2. Part-time students take the compulsory modules (with the exception of the dissertation) in year 1 and optional modules in year 2.

The following options are open to students: available optional modules offered on MA Victorian Studies, MA English Studies and MA English Language and Linguistics. Students will normally be restricted to ONE 15 credit option from a programme other than MA Modern Literature, subject to the agreement of programme convenors.

Students who successfully complete a Critical Dissertation may graduate with an MA in Modern Literature.

Appendix 2: Module Specifications

See module specification database http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation