

# **University of Plymouth**

Faculty of Arts, Humanities, and Business

School of Society and Culture

## **Programme Specification**

BA (Hons) Creative Writing  
7209

Date of Approval: July 2021

Approved Final Version for  
September 2022

## 1. BA

<b>Final award title:</b>	BA (Hons) Creative Writing
<b>Level 5 Intermediate award title(s)</b>	Diploma in Higher Education
<b>Level 4 Intermediate award title(s)</b>	Certificate in Higher Education
<b>UCAS code:</b>	W801
<b>HECOS code:</b>	100046

<b>2. Awarding Institution:</b>	University of Plymouth
<b>Teaching institution(s):</b>	University of Plymouth

<b>3. Accrediting body(ies):</b>	N/A
<b>Date of re-accreditation:</b>	N/A

## 4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience

- Work with published and award-winning writers and journalists.
- Opportunities to publish, edit and create literary publications.
- Spend time in our nurturing, small-group workshops with staff, honing your craft.
- Learn and grow as a writer through trying out multiple forms and genres.
- Benefit from a programme of talks and workshops from writers and industry professionals, as well as the opportunity to take part in field trips and experience Plymouth's vibrant literary and arts culture.
- Encounter digital writing and new ways of expressing yourself.
- Gain work-facing skills utilised in industries such as journalism, content-writing, publishing, editing, marketing, and more.

## 5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA Subject Benchmark for [Creative Writing](#) (2019).

## 6. Programme Structure

<b>Level 4</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
ENG4003 The Craft of Writing I: Prose Fiction & Non-Fiction 20 Credits	ENG4008 The Craft of Writing II: Poetry and Drama 20 Credits
ENG4001 Gods, Monsters, Heroes: Myths and Legends in Literature 20 Credits	ENG4007 Rewritings: Contemporary Literature and Its Histories 20 Credits
ENG4009 Make it New: Digital Writing 20 Credits	ENG4004 Make It Your Own: Independent Mini-Project 20 Credits

<b>Level 5</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
SSC500 Stage 2 Placement Year Preparation 0 Credits	
ENG5005 Professional Writing for Different Media 20 Credits	ENG5012 Burning Issues: Interdisciplinary Writing Project 20 Credits
<b>Choose one from:</b>	<b>Choose one from:</b>
ENG5002 Gothic Fictions: Villains, Virgins and Vampires 20 Credits	ENG5008 Rakes, Rascals and Rudeness in the Eighteenth Century 20 Credits
ENG5003 American Novel 20 Credits	ENG5013 'Hurt Minds': Madness and Mental Illness in Literature 20 Credits
ENG5004 The Impact of Publishing 20 Credits	ENG5011 Dramatic Writing for Stage, Screen and Beyond 20 Credits
<b>Choose one:</b>	<b>Choose one:</b>
<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>	<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>

<b>Optional Placement Year</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
SSC600 School of Society and Culture Placement Year 0 Credits	

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
ENG6001 Dissertation 40 Credits	
ENG6002 Modernism 20 Credits	<b>Choose one from:</b> ENG6007 Advanced Poetry Workshop 20 Credits
<b>Choose one:</b>	
<b>Specialism Module Elective 20 Credits</b>	ENG6008 Features Journalism Workshop 20 Credits
	ENG6005 American Crime Writing 20 Credits
	<b>Choose one from:</b>
	ENG6010 Brave New Worlds: Sci Fi, Fantasy and Politics 20 Credits
	ENG6006 Laughing Matters: Cruelty and Comedy of Literary Satire 20 Credits
	ENG6009 Script to Screen: Making Films, Podcasts, and More 20 Credits

### **Specialism Modules**

All undergraduate programmes in the School of Society and Culture have been designed to enable students to personalise their degree through a wide assortment of optional modules. These allow students to study more topics related to their core degree or branch out and explore up to three modules from other disciplines across the School. This flexibility starts in the second year, with students being able to choose one module from within cross-school elective pools at level 5 semester 1, level 5 semester 2, and level 6 semester 1. These are marked by the term *Specialism Module* in the programme structure above.

Students can elect to take any combination of modules from the three cross-school elective pools, and options will always be available from their core degree subject. However, students who complete three modules from another discipline will have the choice of graduating with that discipline as a specialism on their certificate: BA (Hons) Creative Writing with <specialism>. The School offers modules in the following areas:

- Acting
- Anthropology
- History
- International Relations

- Art History
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Dance
- Drama
- English
- Law
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Politics
- Policing and Security Management
- Sociology

A list of available specialism modules and their associated learning outcomes can be found in the School of Society and Culture's Specialism Specification and on the programme's webpage.

## **7. Programme Aims**

This programme aims to:

- Encourage students to write across a wide variety of forms and genres, developing their competencies across a broad range of areas of writing;
- Give students the opportunity to adopt a wide range of critical reading strategies, applied to their own work and the work of others;
- Develop students' ability to express this critical understanding by contextualising their own work within the writing traditions that precede and surround them;
- Introduce students to theoretical, speculative, and reflective approaches to writing and reading;
- Encourage students to expand their thinking about the possibilities and challenges of writing (for example, aesthetic, cultural, or political);
- Support students in the development of their own writing, and develop their confidence through a critical, technical and creative understanding of the subject/craft/art and of their own creative process;
- Push students to consider how creative writing, broadly conceived, operates within and animates aspects of the creative economy, in sectors such as marketing, journalism, publishing, PR, social media, and other areas of business;
- Inculcate key 'hard' skills of drafting, editing, proofreading to a high standard;
- Allow students to develop an effective and appropriate professional presence both in person and online.

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

### **8.1. Knowledge and understanding**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. A sound knowledge of the major genres of writing in English literature and a good understanding of the traditions of Western writing;
2. A sophisticated understanding of theoretical and speculative approaches to writing, including an ability to analyse and evaluate literary and theoretical texts;
3. A detailed and sophisticated grasp of how texts relate to their publishing contexts and can begin to negotiate with confidence debates, controversy and contradictions;
4. A lively awareness of target audiences for creative writing and a demonstrable sense of an audience manifest in creative work; and
5. An in-depth understanding of one or more specialist areas of the field.

### **8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the skills to:

1. Produce effective creative writing, including fiction, non-fiction, and poetry;
2. Compose writing that demonstrates knowledge of generic boundaries and appropriate register, including the ability to challenge these, play with them, and deploy them in sophisticated ways;
3. Critique, reflect upon, and evaluate their own writing and that of others;
4. Synthesise and critically evaluate information and present it in the form of a clear and coherent argument in a variety of forms, including discriminating between and evaluating divergent opinions;
5. Apply knowledge gained in one area of the syllabus to other areas without prompting or guidance;
6. Conceive of and articulate an independent project, including achieving this project through a creative deployment of conceptual and critical skills; and
7. Select and manage information, including competently undertaking reasonably straightforward research tasks with minimum guidance.

### **8.3. Key and transferable skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the skills to:

1. Communicate in individual and group settings in a wide variety of written and oral forms, and in different academic and professional contexts;
2. Use digital technologies and platforms to disseminate, shape, and inform their writing, developing core digital literacy skills;
3. Draft, copy-edit, and edit work to a high standard;

4. Use creative writing, broadly conceived, to engage critically and imaginatively with issues in other disciplines;
5. Seek and make use of feedback, demonstrating good self-evaluation skills in so doing; and
6. Begin to manage their own learning using appropriate resources with minimal guidance, ultimately operating with increasing autonomy as a self-critical learner.

#### **8.4. Employment related skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. The capacity to present themselves in an effective professional manner in person, on paper, and online;
2. The ability to assume personal responsibility for their professional and workplace behaviours, and conduct themselves appropriately;
3. The competency to interview and otherwise engage professionally with industry contacts and professionals from other disciplines;
4. The ability to use creative writing skills in an area of the creative economy, broadly conceived;
5. A sense of how to evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses, confidently challenge received opinion and develop own criteria and judgment; and
6. The ability to select and manage information, competently undertaking independent projects with minimal guidance.

#### **8.5. Practical skills**

On successful completion graduates should have developed the skills to:

1. Present in front of an audience effectively;
2. Engage critically with others' writing or work by offering sensitive and effective feedback in real time;
3. Use appropriate media and multimedia technologies within their own work, including making or bringing into use films, digital media, podcasts, performances, or other appropriate media.

### **9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and Disability Service arrangements**

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade 4 or above (equivalent to a Grade C as per the grading system until 2017).

<b>Entry Requirements for BA (Hons) Creative Writing</b>
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A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are A level/AS level/Vocational A level: 104-112 points
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Grade Pass MMM - DMM in any subject.
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subject, including GCSE English and Maths grade 4 or above or equivalent with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	Accept as add on points; in addition to 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104-120 points
Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H4, H4, H4, H4, H4 - H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level)
International Baccalaureate	26-30 overall to include 4 at in any subjects at Higher Level. English accepted within Higher Level = 4+ (A1) or 5 (A2/B) Standard Level = 5+ (A1) or 6 (A2/B) If overseas and not studying English within IB – MUST have IELTS: 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements.

## 10. Progression routes/criteria for progression to Final and Intermediate Awards

<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 .
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4 and 120 credits at level 5.
<b>BA (Hons) Creative Writing</b>	Achieved through completion of 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.

## 11. Non Standard Regulations

N/A

## 12. Transitional Arrangements for existing students looking to progress onto the programme

N/A

## Appendices

### Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules







