

Plymouth University

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

School of Humanities

Programme Specification

MA Creative Writing

Code: 2810

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. C. Smith', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Approved by minor change 12th Nov 2014

1. MA Creative Writing

Final award title: MA Creative Writing
At Pass Merit, or Distinction

Level 7 Intermediate award title(s)

PG Cert/ Creative Writing
At Pass, Merit, or Distinction
UCAS and JACS codes are not applicable to this programme.

2. Awarding Institution: University of Plymouth

Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth

3. Accrediting body(ies): NA

4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience: This programme offers ambitious students the opportunity to develop their writing through small workshops dedicated to increasing knowledge of various forms of writing (eg poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, dramatic writing). Student work is reviewed and supported by staff and peers alike in an encouraging and critically supportive environment which utilizes the context of professional examples, discussions of craft, and writing theory. The 'business' of writing is also taught, helping students to begin to professionalize themselves.

5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

QAA M-Level Descriptors

6. Programme Structure

A map of the programme structure is attached separately, but essentially: all students take all (4) core taught modules on offer, culminating in completion of a 5th module, MA Dissertation. An MA is awarded to those

who complete all modules including MA Dissertation. For students who complete the 4 taught modules but not the MA Dissertation, a PGCE Creative Writing will be awarded.

7. Programme Aims

1. To establish and lead workshops that will enable student writing
2. To foster students' imaginative resources for creative writing
3. To introduce a challenging range of 'professional' writing examples and writing theory as the basis for an informed approach to the study of composition
4. To establish the role of craft and the importance of research, critical feedback and revision in a variety of forms of writing
5. To challenge commonplace notions of creativity and originality
6. To prepare students for dissertation projects and writing for publication

8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

8.1. Knowledge and understanding

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Critical close reading and analysis of texts
2. Ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of texts, concepts and theories
3. Composition that demonstrates sensitivity to generic conventions
4. Rhetorical skills of effective communication and argument
5. Ability to deploy as appropriate a broad range of vocabulary
6. Awareness of how different social and cultural contexts affect the nature of language and meaning
7. Comprehension of the complex nature of literary languages, and an awareness of the relevant research by which they may be better understood
8. Bibliographic skills appropriate to the discipline, including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions especially in critical essays and preparation for dissertations

8.2. Cognitive and intellectual skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. Ability to analyse
2. Ability to synthesise
3. Ability to evaluate
4. Ability to apply knowledge

8.3. Key and transferable skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed the ability to:

1. Work within groups
2. Use a range of learning resources
3. Reflect critically on their own learning and practice.
4. Manage information
5. be autonomous and self-critical workers
6. Communicate creative ideas and knowledge in more than one medium
7. Formulate and utilize research questions.

8.4. Employment related skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

1. *Qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:*
Exercise initiative and personal responsibility
2. Present complex ideas and information in a clear and accessible fashion to a mixed audience

8.5. Practical skills

On successful completion graduates should have developed:

Ability to facilitate independent research

9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

NB: The following table is a draft exemplar for an undergraduate programme

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above.

Entry Requirements

A good degree (normally a 2.1 or above) in a relevant subject (generally a Humanities subject, but this is open to negotiation), and an appropriate creative writing sample demonstrating aptitude for MA level work. Where relevant, students may be asked to provide evidence of English language qualifications (normally, IELTS level 7). Applicants may be asked for interview. The University has particularly good support services for students with disabilities, and accordingly welcomes applicants from appropriately qualified disabled candidates. The University also has substantial experience in supporting mature students and welcomes applicants in this category. Applicants with APL will be considered on an individual basis according to the University Regulations Framework. Students interested in transferring postgraduate credits will be considered on merit, and current University regulations regarding transfer of credits from other institutions will apply.

10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards: NA

11. Exceptions to Regulations:

There are no special regulations associated with this programme except for the 'distinctive features' of the eighteenth-century exit award noted in the approval documentation.

12. Transitional Arrangements: NA

13. Mapping and Appendices:

- Learning outcomes against modules
- Revised module records
- Revised programme structure diagram