



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MA Creative Writing

COURSE SPECIFICATION

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| Course Title | MA Creative Writing |
| Final Award | MA |
| Exit Awards | PGCert, PGDip |
| Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable) | P1881FTC P1881PTC |
| Mode of study | Full time, Part time |
| Mode of delivery | Campus |
| Normal length of course | 1 year full time, 2 years part time |
| Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies | September 2024 intake onwards |
| Awarding Body | University of Portsmouth |
| Teaching Institution | University of Portsmouth |
| Faculty | Creative and Cultural Industries |
| School/Department/Subject Group | School of Film, Media, and Creative Technologies |
| School/Department/Subject Group webpage | https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/faculty-of-creative-and-cultural-industries/school-of-film-media-and-creative-technologies |
| Course webpage including entry criteria | https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/ma-creative-writing |
| Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations | N/A |
| Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level | Level 7 |

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

- To develop advanced study in creative writing, by both research-through-practice (creative work) and through the development of critical understanding;
- To offer an opportunity to develop genre-specific projects while also studying the conventions of other creative writing genres, and how they inform the world of creative writing practice and knowledge;
- To provide an opportunity for writers graduating from BA courses in creative writing (or similar), to extend their work/technique/knowledge;
- To develop work that takes into account the context of contemporary practice appropriate to the chosen genre, and to make a case for person- and project- specific approaches, styles, structural understanding and modes of communication through creative writing;
- To develop creative writing research skills with a sense of current national and international practice in this field.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

| A. Knowledge and understanding of: | | | |
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| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
| A1 | An advanced understanding of creative writing, both through process based creative activity (the production of creative work) and response based critical understanding (an attached set of critical approaches); | Lectures, seminars, group work, peer reviews | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |
| A2 | Models of how creative writers develop their skills and understanding of their skills; | Lectures, seminars, group work, peer reviews | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |
| A3 | The critical/industrial/commercial and aesthetic context of their work, and the work of others; | Lectures, seminars, group work, peer reviews | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |
| A4 | Writing strategies appropriate to their chosen genre; | Lectures, seminars, group work, peer reviews | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |
| A5 | Responsive understanding – a key component of critical understanding of creative writing (i.e. critical understanding drawn from a response to the writer's own practice/context/culture and the practice/context/culture of others); | Lectures, seminars, source materials | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |
| A6 | The local, national and international context of contemporary creative writing. | Lectures, seminars, source materials | Essays, portfolios, presentations, lectures |

| B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to: | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
| B1 | Apply a range of critical understanding to projects involving creative practice; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| B2 | Analyse and explain own practice and the practice/end products of others; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| B3 | Draw on a variety of sources to create a sense of the best possible approach to the writer's own practice; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| B4 | Respond to and reflect on personal practice and the practice of others; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| B5 | Organise material and evaluate the significance of particular creative works and critical approaches; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| B6 | Make critical judgements that consider market forces and/or aesthetic aims as their primary criteria. | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, dossiers, portfolios, presentations, peer review |

| C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to: | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
| C1 | Demonstrate that individual practice meets the expectations of the course team (particularly specific genre specialists) and, where applicable, industry standards in the field; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| C2 | Demonstrate adherence to a range of critically informed creative values; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| C3 | Provide coherent and constructive responses to their own work and the work of others; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| C4 | Determine local, national and international standards, and be aware of contemporary practice and criticism; | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, peer review |
| C5 | Demonstrate knowledge of research practice in the field, and its relationship to the development of advanced understanding of creative practice. | Lectures, seminars, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, peer review |

| D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to: | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| LO number | Learning outcome | Learning and Teaching methods | Assessment methods |
| D1 | Demonstrate a range of critical understanding of projects involving creative practice, thus also of creative practice as a method of investigating the world; | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |
| D2 | Knowledge of their own practice and the practice/end products of others, drawing appropriate sources to create a sense of the best possible approach to their own practice; | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |
| D3 | Respond to and reflect on personal practice and the practice of others, an ability to give and take constructive criticism and to work in groups. | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |
| D4 | Organise material and evaluate the significance of particular creative works and critical approaches and have the ability to pursue arts research-through-practice and locate it critically. | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |
| D5 | The ability to work with an advisor (in form of supervisor who can offer editorial suggestions and/or marketing suggestions and/or research specific suggestions – all of which fit with professional practice in this field). | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |
| D6 | The ability to realistically assess styles, attitudes and forms in creative writing in relation to their aesthetic and/or market relevance. | Seminars, lectures, tutorials, peer review, group work | Essays, portfolios, presentations, Essays |

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations: Examination & Assessment Regulations](#) will apply to this course. This course has an [Approved Course Exemption](#).

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

CCI Creative Careers: Support to add degree-related and relevant work experience for CV building including a work placement year, summer or short internships and part-time work.

CCI Creative Skills: One to one support sessions and group tutorials in creative software and skills relevant to CCI courses and future careers.

CCI Academic Skills: Access to resources to support learning strategies and techniques through one to one tutorials or group workshops.

CCI Student Support Advisor: Help to find appropriate academic, pastoral or practical support.

Specialist equipment and facilities relevant to the course.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision](#)
- [Office for Students Conditions of Registration](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) for **Creative Writing (CW)** as set out on **English Subject Centre/UK Council for Graduate Education best practice guides**, and the **National Association of Writing in Education Benchmark statement**.
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **N/A**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Changes to your course/modules

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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