Leeds Trinity University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. General information

Awarding body / institution	**Leeds Trinity University**
Teaching institution	**Leeds Trinity University**
Professional accreditation body	**n/a**
Final award	**MA**
Title of programme	**Creative Writing**
Subsidiary awards	**PG Cert** **PG Dip**
In the case of a Scheme of Study, the other Scheme(s) with which it may be combined	**n/a**
Duration and modes of study	**Minimum 12 months full-time / 2 years part-time**
Start date	**September 2013**
Periodic review next due	**AY 2013/14**
UCAS course code & code name	**n/a**
Delivery venue	**Leeds Trinity University**

2. Aims of the programme

Rationale and general aims
Creative writing explores and expresses our thoughts and emotions in order to entertain, inform and stimulate readers. It both describes and shapes our world, as well as creating new ones. Through working with our published writers, students will develop their prose or poetic skills, learning writing strategies which will help them to find their own distinctive voices in their chosen medium. As well as this, there is a strong professional element in the course to guide students towards finding readers for their work. The general aims of the programme are: - To enable students who have the range of skills and knowledge appropriate to honours graduates in various related disciplines to develop their expertise in either poetry or prose.   - To equip students with reading practices which support their own writing.   - To provide the necessary practice framework for those wishing to pursue writing as a profession.

3. Student learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes in terms of:
– **knowledge and understanding (K)**
– **intellectual / cognitive / 'thinking' skills (I)**
– **physical skills specific to the subject (P)**
– **employability skills (E)**
The 'K1', etc codes are used in section 7c) and module descriptors to refer to each of these learning outcomes.

On successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

K1   an understanding of the creative process;

K2   knowledge of literary texts cognate to their own work;

K3   a high level of technical proficiency;

K4   the ability to produce a sustained, coherent body of creative writing;

I1   critical awareness of cultural and stylistic issues pertaining to creative writing;

I2   critical evaluation of written texts;

I3   effective and sustained written communication;

Employability skills

E1   **Self-management** – the ability to plan and manage time; readiness to accept responsibility and improve their own performance based on feedback/reflective learning; the ability to take initiative and be proactive, flexible and resilient;

E2   **Teamworking** – the ability to co-operate with others on a shared task and to recognise and take on appropriate team roles; leading, contributing to discussions and negotiating; contributing to discussions; awareness of interdependence with others;

E3   **Business and sector awareness** – an understanding of the key drivers for business success, including the importance of customer/client satisfaction and innovation; understanding of the market/sector in which an organisation operates; the ability to recognise the external context and pressures on a organisation, including concepts such as value for money, profitability and sustainability;

E4   **Problem-solving** – a capacity for critical reasoning, analysis and synthesis; a capacity for applying knowledge in practice; an ability to retrieve, analyse and evaluate information from different sources;

E5   **Communication** – the ability to present information clearly and appropriately, both orally and in writing, and to tailor messages to specific audiences and purposes;

E6   **Application of numeracy** – not applicable to this programme;

E7   **Application of information technology** – the ability to identify the appropriate IT package for a given task; familiarity with word-processing, spreadsheets and file management; the ability to use the internet and email effectively.

E8   **Entrepreneurship/enterprise** – the ability to demonstrate an innovative approach and creativity, to generate ideas and to identify and take opportunities;

E9   **Social, cultural & civic awareness** – embracement of an ethos of community and civic responsibility; an appreciation of diversity and ethical issues; an understanding of cultures and customs in the wider community.

See also the generic learning outcomes for subsidiary awards set out in section 4 below.

The programme is practice-led and is congruent with the subject benchmark for Creative Writing Research published by NAWE (2008).

4.   Subsidiary awards

Postgraduate Certificate

For full-time students this may be awarded upon successful completion of the *Reading as a Writer* and *Poetry/Prose Workshop 1* modules (60 credits in total). Students will have demonstrated the ability to critically evaluate a diverse range of texts, apply these evaluative skills to their own work, and produce a short, sustained body of poetry or prose.

For part-time students this may be awarded upon successful completion of *Reading as a Writer* and *Writing as a Profession* (60 credits in total). Students will have demonstrated the ability to critically evaluate a diverse range of texts and to apply these evaluative skills to their own work. They will also have demonstrated knowledge of markets for creative writing and the ability to produce work tailored for the marketplace.

Postgraduate Diploma

This may be awarded upon successful completion of the *Reading as a Writer*, *Poetry/Prose Workshop 1*, *Poetry/Prose Workshop 2* and *Writing as a Profession* modules (120 credits in total).

5.   Content

Summary of content by theme
(providing a 'vertical' view through the programme)

The programme offers two possible pathways – prose or poetry – at the core of which are the respective workshops which run in semesters 1 and 2. In both pathways work-in-progress will be circulated in advance for discussion and feedback at weekly sessions. Through sharing and discussing work in small groups students will use peer and tutor feedback to develop and hone their advanced writing skills and become self-reflecting writers.

In addition to this, two further modules provide skills in support of the central focus. *Reading as a Writer* discusses a range of contemporary novels and poetry collections in order to provide useful exempla for meeting personal creative challenges, which may involve short writing exercises. *Writing as a Profession* centres upon a series of talks by visiting writers and professionals from the book industry, (e.g. editors, literary agents) as well as seminars led by the programme tutors, providing students with insights into aspects of publishing, markets for writing, and presentation of work, which they will be able to put into practice with their own work.

The *Dissertation* follows the taught modules and offers support for an extended creative piece built upon the foundations of the *Workshop* modules.

Full-time students will complete the *Reading as a Writer* and *Writing as a Profession* modules alongside the *Workshop* modules, whilst part-time students will take *Reading as a Writer* and *Writing as a Profession* in the first year and the *Workshop* modules in the second year.

6. Structure

MA Creative Writing

Duration: Minimum of 12 months full-time / 2 years part-time
Total credit rating: 180

		<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	
Candidates are required to take:				
HUM 7103	Reading as a Writer	Yr 1 Sem 1	Yr 1 Sem 1	30 credits
HUM 7113	Writing as a Profession	Yr 1 Sem 2	Yr 1 Sem 2	30 credits
HUM 7166	Dissertation	Yr 1 Sem 2	Yr 2 Sem 2	60 credits
Candidates are required to take **either**:				
HUM 7123 and	Prose Workshop 1	Yr 1 Sem 1	Yr 2 Sem 1	30 credits
HUM 7153	Prose Workshop 2	Yr 1 Sem 2	Yr 2 Sem 2	30 credits
or				
HUM 7133 and	Poetry Workshop 1	Yr 1 Sem 1	Yr 2 Sem 1	30 credits
HUM 7143	Poetry Workshop 2	Yr 1 Sem 2	Yr 2 Sem 2	30 credits

See section 4 for details of subsidiary awards (PG Cert and PG Dip).

7. Learning, teaching and assessment

7a) Statement of the strategy for learning, teaching and assessment for the programme

The key aim of the course is to nurture the individual's distinctive writing, and it is our belief that this is best achieved by a mixture of engagement with one's writing peers and guidance from tutors. For this reason, workshop modules will be taught through group discussion in order to provide a 'challenging and stimulating' environment which is also supportive of individual development. The first workshop module will be assessed through an initial project proposal and a short prose or poetry submission, both of which will provide the basis for further individual discussion with the tutor in order to shape work in progress. The second workshop module will build upon and extend the prose or poetry already written through a further short submission and written self-reflection.

The *Workshop* modules will focus upon student work-in-progress and, in turn, provide the foundation for the *Dissertation*, during which students will receive individual support to develop their work into a fuller piece, such as a short story, substantial novel extract, or poetry collection.

It is a truism to state that in order to write well, one must read widely and attentively. *Reading as a Writer* will focus upon a selection of contemporary poetry and prose, focusing upon writing strategies employed by some of the most successful writers of today. Students will be encouraged to reflect on how consideration of the methods of others may enrich their own writing. This will be taught through seminars and assessed on a portfolio, and aims to enable 'confident, empowered and engaged' individuals.

Few writers write without wishing to be read. Through a series of talks by visiting speakers, followed by discussions, students will be introduced to the business side of writing, such as approaching agents, dealing with publishers (editors, copy-editors, publicists, marketing teams, etc), and small press publication. These talks will be supplemented by seminars led by the programme tutors and focusing on key practical aspects of the writing profession (eg. reading and performance of work, producing 'pitch' material for agents and editors, self-promotion through social media and the internet) and the contemporary publishing and bookselling industry. *Writing as a Profession* will also consider the numerous fields in which writers are employed and is congruent with the University's LTA strategy on employability.

7b) Module details

Module number and name	Learning and teaching methods	Assessment				Teaching staff (Module co-ordinator shown as first name, in **bold** script)	Venue (if not Leeds Trinity premises)
		Component form	Magnitude (eg. 2,000 words *or* 2 hours)	Weighting and/or Pass/Fail	Timing (Semester & indicative teaching week)		
HUM 7123 Prose Workshop 1	Seminars	Proposal Prose work	1,500 words 4,000 words	30% 70%	During Semester 1 End of Semester 1	**Martyn Bedford**	
HUM 7153 Prose Workshop 2	Seminars	Prose work Reflective commentary	4,000 words 1,500 words	70% 30%	End of Semester 2 End of Semester 2	**Martyn Bedford**	
HUM 7133 Poetry Workshop 1	Seminars	Proposal Poetry work	1,500 words 240 lines of poetry	30% 70%	During Semester 1 End of Semester 1	**Paul Hardwick**	
HUM 7143 Poetry Workshop 2	Seminars	Poetry work Reflective commentary	240 lines of poetry 1,500 words	70% 30%	End of Semester 2 End of Semester 2	**Paul Hardwick**	
HUM 7103 Reading as a Writer	Seminars	Portfolio	5,000 words or equivalent	100%	Start of Semester 2	**Amina Alyal** Paul Hardwick Martyn Bedford	
HUM 7113 Writing as a Profession	Lectures and seminars	Portfolio	5,000 words or equivalent	100%	End of Semester 2	**Martyn Bedford** Paul Hardwick Visiting speakers	
HUM 7166 Dissertation	Tutorials	Prose or Poetry	12,000 words (Prose) or 720 lines (Poetry)	100%	End of Programme	**Paul Hardwick** Amina Alyal Martyn Bedford	

7c) Programme learning outcomes covered

	Assessed learning outcomes of the programme							Skills development								
	K1	**K2**	**K3**	**K4**	**I1**	**I2**	**I3**	**E1**	**E2**	**E3**	**E4**	**E5**	**E6**	**E7**	**E8**	**E9**
Lighter shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	Creative process	Literary texts	Technical proficiency	Body of writing	Critical awareness	Evaluation	Written communication	Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship / enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness
HUM 7133 Poetry Workshop 1	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░		░		
HUM 7143 Poetry Workshop 2	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░		░		
HUM 7123 Prose Workshop 1	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░		░		
HUM 7153 Prose Workshop 2	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░		░		
HUM 7103 Reading as a Writer	▓	▓	▓		▓	▓					▓			▓		▓
HUM 7113 Writing as a Profession			▓					▓		▓		▓		▓	▓	▓
HUM 7166 Dissertation	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓		▓	▓			▓	▓	

8.   Entry requirements

Postgraduate programmes

Applicants should normally have achieved the following prior to registration for the programme:

A 2.1 honours degree in a related subject, or an equivalent combination of formal qualification and professional experience. Applicants are also required to demonstrate a commitment to creative writing through submission of a personal portfolio of 2,000 words of creative prose or 120 lines of poetry and through interview.

Applicants who have not taken a first degree are invited to apply, submitting 4,000 words of creative prose or 240 lines of poetry and attending an interview.

9.   Progression, classification and award requirements

Details of requirements for student progression between levels and receipt of the award(s)
(A certain level of attainment which must be achieved in a specific module; any mdules exempted from condonement, any deviation from the standard institutional stipulations for award classification, eg. exclusion of Level 4 module marks from Foundation Degree classification)

Standard University taught postgraduate programme regulations apply.

10.   Prerequisites

Details of modules which must be passed before enrolment on a module at a higher level
Include the rationale which justifies imposition of the prerequisite(s) and the mark/grade required.

HUM 7133 is a pre-requisite for HUM 7143.

HUM 7123 is a pre-requisite for HUM 7153.

HUM 7143 or HUM 7153 is a pre-requisite for HUM 7166.

11.   External examining arrangements

External examining arrangements
(eg. joint with another programme – extended duties for someone already in post – or separate, single/multiple examiners; if multiple examiners, which subjects / types of module are to be allocated to each)

Single new examiner required.

12.   Additional information

Details regarding arrangements in respect of any special features of the programme/scheme, (eg. a non-standard delivery pattern, study abroad, a field course, specific work placement, opportunities for onward progression from foundation degrees)

13.   Additional support needs

Arrangements made to accommodate students with additional support needs and any unavoidable restrictions on their participation in the programme/scheme
(Key aspects of the Equality Impact Assessment for the Department – see Internal Audit Form NP2G for further details)

Student support needs are considered at the time of application. The programme team has extensive experience of supporting students with a wide range of additional needs.