

COURSE SPECIFICATION - BA (Hons) Creative Writing



1. General information

Course Title	Creative Writing
UCAS code	W800
Course / Award Title	BA (Hons)
Awarding Institution	Leeds Arts University
Institution at which course is delivered	Leeds Arts University
Professional Accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Relevant QAA Benchmark(s)	Creative Writing February 2016
Date of most recent review/approval (for new courses)	December 2018
Date of next review	2022-23

Awards	Credits	Duration	Mode of study
BA (Hons) Creative Writing	360 (180 ECTS)	3 years	FT
BA Creative Writing*	300 (150 ECTS)	3 years	FT
DipHE in Creative Writing*	240 (120 ECTS)	2 years	FT
CertHE in Creative Writing*	120 (60 ECTS)	1 year	FT
*Exit award only			

2. Course Aims

This course aims to provide you with:

- A range of creative, critical and technical writing skills and opportunities to develop your imaginative writing and talent, nurtured in a lively, intellectually stimulating student centred art school environment.
- An appreciation of the continuing social, cultural, political and aesthetic importance of creative writing.
- The ability to use the industry and professional skills and knowledge, developed through the course, to enable you to identify and use career opportunities.
- The critical, analytical, imaginative and editorial skills and mindset to develop and produce speculative and reflective approaches to writing and reading.

- Learning through experimentation, risk taking, critical and peer review, and collaborative modes of writing that challenge standard writing conventions.
- Engagement internally and externally with peers and industry, which provide both the challenges and the opportunities of a real world writing practice.
- A critical account and exploration of writing and reading as modes of cultural expression including knowledge of genre, media, style and language and the relationships between them.

3. Distinctive Features

Distinctive features of the course:

- Writing is valuable social currency and can provide multiple career opportunities. You will have the opportunity to develop a portfolio of creative and critical writing in a lively, rich and stimulating environment. Our BA (Hons) Creative Writing course is aimed at those who wish to make writing careers wherever effectiveness and originality in communication skills are required. It promotes a positive and realistic approach to a writing life.
- Located in the North's only specialist arts university, the course provides a rich range of opportunities to collaborate with writers, visual and performative artists, and industry professionals both from within and external to the University, and links to the visual and performing arts industry as a place to develop critically aware creative writing.
- We offer an academically rigorous course of study that focusses upon the process and the content of writing, and on the critical and analytical skills required to make writing truly effective.
- You will be encouraged to develop a firm grounding in the study of language and the complexity of writing voices and writing audiences, supported by a thorough and integrated approach to social and cultural knowledge, developing the skills of reading as a writer, and an emphasis on developing critical thinking and awareness.

This distinctiveness is underpinned by a broader remit in that it:

- Promotes a respect for the craft and technical expertise required in creative writing of whatever genre.
- Promotes writing as a tool to inspire, engage, expand thinking and challenge social, aesthetic, cultural and other positions.
- Engenders a flexible, creative, imaginative approach to a writing life.
- Is vocationally orientated and provides a broad and valuable grounding in the key transferable skills relatable to a broad range of writing lives and careers in a wide range of locations and situations, both traditional and non-traditional. The course encourages both your individual developing skills in writing and the possibilities for effective collaborative experiences.
- You will develop important and transferable editing, research and critical thinking skills with an emphasis on developing effective and varied writing voices with a respect for contemporary writing, literary history and the historical and cultural contexts of writing.
- Creative Writing, is naturally interdisciplinary. Creative projects often involve a range of media and writers are often drawn to the study of - for example - place, person, context and society. A writer's working method may involve fieldwork as well as archival or scientific research and may engage with many fields of knowledge. This helps equip students for a range of career paths and makes them flexible and adaptable in their outputs and choices. It also tends to foster an inquisitiveness that may result in progression to higher level study.

4. Course Structure

4a. Module Framework

Level 4	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUCW401 Entering the Writing Workshop	60	30	600
LAUCW402 Writing as Meaning Maker	30	15	300
LAUCW403 Writing for an Audience	30	15	300
Level 5	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUCW501 Inhabiting the Writing Workshop	30	15	300
LAUCW502 Writing as Change Maker	30	15	300
LAUCW503 Writing as Event	60	30	600
Level 6	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUCW601 Writing Ready	60	30	600
LAUCW602 Delivery Ready	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Level 4		
Semester One	LAUCW401 Entering the Writing Workshop <i>60 credits</i>	
Semester Two	LAUCW402 Writing as Meaning Maker <i>30 credits</i>	LAUCW403 Writing for an Audience <i>30 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award)

Level 5		
Semester One	LAUCW501 Inhabiting the Writing Workshop <i>30 credits</i>	LAUCW502 Writing as Change Maker <i>30 credits</i>
Semester Two	LAUCW503 Writing as Event <i>60 credits</i>	
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)		Diploma of Higher Education (Exit Award)

Level 6	
Semester One	LAUCW601 Writing Ready <i>60 credits</i>
Semester Two	LAUCW602 Delivery Ready <i>60 credits</i>
120 credits (60 ECTS credits)	
BA (Hons) Creative Writing (Exit Award)	
*Students who fail to complete 360 credits but have accumulated no fewer than 300 credits will be awarded an Ordinary degree.	

5. Course Learning Outcomes

Learning is assessed at each level of the course. This develops from introductory work within the specialism of the course at level 4, through development of skills and ideas at level 5, progressing to application and synthesis of skills, originality, and theory in practice at level 6 as indicated by the FHEQ qualification descriptors.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) comprise the Level Learning Outcomes, which define what you are expected to be able to do on completion of each level. Level Learning Outcomes are achieved through successfully completing all modules at that level. Expectations for your learning are expressed within each module.

Level 4 (CertHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 4, you will be expected to:</i>	
CW4.01 Demonstrate a knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with creative writing.	LAUCW401 LAUCW402
CW4.02 Relate your practice to your understanding of cultural, historical and professional contexts of creative writing.	LAUCW402 LAUCW403
CW4.03 Present, evaluate, and interpret information in accordance with basic creative writing theories and concepts and translate these into experimental and practical outcomes.	LAUCW401 LAUCW402 LAUCW403
CW4.04 Evaluate the appropriateness of your approach to resolving problems and issues related to creative writing.	LAUCW401 LAUCW403
CW4.05 Critically communicate structured and coherent arguments that support your work.	LAUCW401 LAUCW402
CW4.06 Demonstrate some personal responsibility and autonomy, and recognise both your strengths and weaknesses as a creative writer.	LAUCW401 LAUCW402 LAUCW403
CW4.07 Demonstrate some ability to manage your learning independently and collaboratively in response to course or self-initiated briefs and activities.	LAUCW401 LAUCW403

Level 5 (DipHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 5, you will be expected to:</i>	
CW5.01 Demonstrate a knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of creative writing and the way in which these principles have developed.	LAUCW501 LAUCW502
CW5.02 Apply the underlying concepts and principles of creative writing to a range of contexts that demonstrate a developing understanding of the role of creative writing in the context of future employment.	LAUCW501 LAUCW503
CW5.03 Use the methods of enquiry and conceptual thinking relevant to creative writing to experiment, develop imaginative writing solutions and to critically evaluate outcomes.	LAUCW501 LAUCW502
CW5.04 Appreciate the limits of your knowledge and how this can affect your interpretation of problems and solutions to them.	LAUCW501 LAUCW503
CW5.05 Demonstrate the ability to use a range of established techniques to critically inform and propose effective creative writing solutions based on that analysis.	LAUCW501 LAUCW502
CW5.06 Effectively communicate, record and present information in a variety of forms as appropriate to specialist and non-specialist audiences including professionals, markets and participants.	LAUCW501 LAUCW502 LAUCW503
CW5.07 Develop new and existing skills relevant to future employment and in preparation for further study.	LAUCW502 LAUCW503
CW5.08 Manage your workload effectively and exercise personal responsibility.	LAUCW501 LAUCW502 LAUCW503
CW5.09 Demonstrate the ability to respond to opportunities for collaboration.	LAUCW501 LAUCW503

Level 6 (BA Hons)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 6, you will be expected to:</i>	
CW6.01 Evidence a systematic understanding and critical understanding through coherent and detailed knowledge of key aspects of the concepts and practice of creative writing and situate your professional practice and project management skills within this.	LAUCW602
CW6.02 Accurately deploy industry established techniques of analysis and enquiry needed for a successful creative writing practice.	LAUCW602
CW6.03 Demonstrate a conceptual understanding of the field enabling you to solve problems, using innovative creative idea and techniques, and describe and comment upon particular aspects of current thinking in creative writing.	LAUCW601
CW6.04 Think conceptually in developing creative, forward-looking strategies in situations of uncertainty and ambiguity, and appreciate the limits of knowledge and creative practice within the field.	LAUCW601
CW6.05 Demonstrate independent learning with the ability to devise, engage and present your own specialised and self-determined practice, vision, concepts, projects and outcomes supported and evidenced by relevant forms of enquiry.	LAUCW601

CW6.06 Critically evaluate arguments assumptions and market data to make judgements and to frame questions and/or propose a range of solutions to creative writing problems.	LAUCW602
CW6.07 Communicate information, ideas, problems and creative solutions in a range of formats to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	LAUCW602
CW6.08 Where appropriate, to demonstrate the ability to collaborate and liaise professionally with peers, industry professionals, employers and the wider writing community.	LAUCW601 LAUCW602

6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Our overall approach to engagement is outlined in our statement on [Undergraduate Teaching & Learning at Leeds Arts University](#).

6a. Teaching and Learning

Level 4

The first year introduces you to an awareness and engagement with a contemporary writing practice in preparation for a confident writing life. During the first module, Entering the Writing Workshop, you will develop a sound understanding of the purpose and possibilities of the writing workshop through an engagement with varied, experimental and risk-taking writing. You will use the workshop to explore, create and problem-solve both with your peers and autonomously. The writing workshop has been widely adopted as a collaborative exercise that accelerates and consolidates student learning. In a writing workshop the participants read and critically respond to each other's work, operating in a small group in which the role of your tutor is mainly to steer, inform and moderate discussion.

The outcomes of a workshop broadly include technically improved writing, an expanded critical vocabulary and preparation for the drafting and editing work required of a professional writer. Your skill in judging work-in-progress is both a means and an end in itself. This may be assessed implicitly through your participation in workshops and explicitly through the workshop's impact on your critical judgement and emergent creative work. You may display this through a learning journal, learning log, workshop diary and records of successive drafts.

In Writing as Meaning Maker, you will develop your knowledge and critical engagement with the power of language to make meaning. By placing writing within the context of critical thinking and reading, you will develop knowledge of the personal, literary and cultural contexts of writing. In Writing for an Audience, you will develop the transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility. You will also engage with the significance of audience and location in the siting of your developing writing practice. You will be expected to communicate the results of your critical investigation and learning journey reliably and accurately. Opportunities to attend master classes, guest speakers and industry professionals allow you to benefit from the views of others in the development of your practice at all levels.

Level 5

In the second year of study, you will move towards an autonomous, original and questioning writing practice. Through the first module, Inhabiting the Writing Workshop, you will deepen, expand and challenge your place in the writing workshop as a place of inquiry, and experimentation. You will deepen your technical, creative and linguistic skills through engagement with an increasingly self-directed and collaborative range of writing activities and briefs. Writing as Change Maker challenges you to apply your understanding of language as change maker in increasingly varied, original and imaginative ways. You will formulate considered practical responses to the critical judgements of others, while developing a generous yet rigorous critical scrutiny through peer review and writing and reading activities. Writing as Event

encourages you to demonstrate and explore the qualities necessary for employment in situations requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making. You will display a more nuanced appreciation of audience and location in the siting of your writing practice.

Level 6

The third year of this course requires the successful integration of the skills employed at level 4 and 5 combined with independent enterprise and flair to produce work that is ambitious, markedly original in its relation to existing work and searching in its enquiry. You will be facilitated to develop, select, demonstrate, articulate and apply a higher level and increasingly specialist set of practical, conceptual, professional and analytical skills to your own and others' writing through Writing Ready. Delivery Ready asks you to explore your chosen genres in some depth and encourages the independent production of collaborative, audience facing, industry aware writing and the delivery of writing in an agential and thoughtful manner, deepening your understanding of where and how to site yourselves in your writing lives. Through a sustained and coherent body of writing work you will evidence the deepening of the refinement, focus, rigour and criticality of a writer in preparation for progression into a range and variety of progression routes.

6b. Assessment

The aim of assessment is to inform you of your individual progress as you work through the course. Feedback is an essential element of assessment and explained in more detail in 6c. Assessment also ensures that you are meeting the required academic standards for the award.

Assessment reflects the teaching and learning content and is an integral part of the learning process. Specific assessment strategies and submission requirements are explained in the briefs that you will receive at the start of each module. Assessment is designed to reflect creative and academic practice and is aligned with the appropriate level of study. As far as possible assessment will be authentic in simulating professional practices.

The Leeds Arts University assessment approach regards 'performance' as the key term for the diverse creative outputs submitted in assessment across its provision. Your creative output therefore, is the performance of your learning, and will demonstrate the extent to which you have learned, developed, assimilated and mediated your knowledge, understanding and skills into appropriate forms for submission requirements. You will evidence module expectations, as expressed as 'what you are expected to learn' in module specifications.

The assessment of the modules is holistic; all material presented for assessment in each module is taken as a whole and a single mark is arrived at. Most assessment is by portfolio submission, the exact nature and content of which is determined by the subject matter, content and learning expectations for each module and is specified in your module briefs.

Your work will be assessed holistically using the undergraduate Assessment Criteria and Marking Scheme. These are used to evaluate your learning against the learning expectations specified for each module. Levels are clearly differentiated by learning outcomes, module expectations, teaching and learning approaches and assessment design.

6c. Feedback

Tutors will provide feedback, both in support of your ongoing development, as well as in direct response to your work formally within assessment contexts.

Provision of ongoing feedback - defined as information communicated to students with the intention of improving learning - is a significant and distinctive strength of the course. It is demonstrated through frequent and ongoing discussions between staff and students.

Formative

You will receive formative feedback on your progress throughout the module in a number of ways. You will partake in ongoing evaluation within the teaching and learning on the course, developing skills in reflection and dialogue and receive ongoing formative feedback from the teaching staff and peers. All the modules on this course contain formal formative feedback sessions using the assessment criteria where you will receive feedback on your progress to meet this developmental aim.

Examples of formative feedback include (without being limited to):

- Peer Reviews
- Group Tutorials
- Individual Progress Tutorials

Summative

At the end of the module you will receive summative feedback represented by a grade with tutor comments on your work. This feedback will help you to understand how you performed on the module, clarify your strengths and identify areas for further consideration.