

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 (2024)

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 practical and creatively stimulating approach to writing.
- The opportunity to identify and develop your voice and develop a meaningful creative practice.
- A multitude of ways to write and think about writing and writers, as creatives, as storytellers, as reporters, as social commentators, and as change makers.
- A range of creative, critical and technical writing skills and opportunities to develop your imaginative and academic writing.
- An appreciation of the continuing social, cultural, political and aesthetic importance of creative writing.
- The ability to identify the transferrable skills specific to creative writing and wider creative industries.
- The critical, analytical, imaginative and editorial skills, to produce writing outcomes, aligned with creative industries' expectation.

- The opportunity to learn through experimentation, risk taking, critical peer review, and collaborative modes of writing that challenge standard writing conventions.
- Engagement internally with peers and externally with industry, which convey the challenges and the opportunities of a real-world writing practice.
- A critical 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:

At its core this is a practical course, seeking to develop writers as creative practitioners. This aim is underpinned by coherent, relevant creative workshops, lectures and seminars. You will have the opportunity to develop a portfolio of creative and critical writing in a lively and stimulating environment. Located in the North's only specialist arts university, the course provides rich opportunities to collaborate with your peers working across a wide range of creative practices.

You will be challenged and supported, as part of a vibrant and engaged writing community. The course centres on the writing workshop, an opportunity to share work with your peers and develop your ability to articulate what you see as the qualities and opportunities for improvement in a piece of writing. Critical and academic skills are highly valued here. Any encounter with theory, academic writing or critical analysis is in service of your creative development and towards a better understanding of what makes good writing.

Since its inception, the course has developed meaningful links with the literary history and burgeoning literary scene in both Leeds and West Yorkshire. We have run collaborative projects and held performances at Leeds Literature Festival, The Arvon Centre - Lumb Bank, The Leeds Library, Hyde Park Book Club, Sunnybank Mills, and Leeds Playhouse to mention a few. On this course, you will have opportunity to invest yourself in a thriving community of writers from diverse cultural, literary, and personal backgrounds.

At Leeds Arts University you are not obliged to silo yourself within a specific genre or form; writers are encouraged to explore the breadth of writing possibilities right through your three years on our creative writing course. Our intention is not to define you through a particular literary form but to enable you to determine your own creative path and exploration. You will find your voice and articulate it in writing that is both meaningful to you and skilfully conveyed. The course welcomes and encourages experimentation in hybrid forms such as creative nonfiction and prose poetry. We also encourage our writers to explore interdisciplinary work, where they have skill and experience in other practices, such as illustration, photography, and performance. Interdisciplinary practice may be supported by a range of practical workshops offered by the university.

The course recognises the act of creativity is as important as the outcomes it produces. Through a focus on creative process, we seek to develop your understanding of what happens when you write, and for this investigation to benefit the subsequent work you create. Through an ongoing reflective practice, you will record your discovery, how your ideas about writing change and develop, and identify what happens when you write and why.

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.
- 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
LAUCW411 Exploration and Expression	60	30	600
LAUCW412 Structure and Substance	60	30	600
Level 5	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUCW511 Creative Encounters and the Literary Landscape	60	30	600
LAUCW512 Dreamers and Disruptors	60	30	600
Level 6	Credit Points	ECTS	Learning Hours
LAUCW611 Process and Poetics	60	30	600
LAUCW612 Industry and Advancement	60	30	600

4b. Course Map / Structure

Level 4	
Semester One	<p>LAUCW411 Exploration and Expression <i>60 credits</i></p>
Semester Two	<p>LAUCW412 Structure and Substance <i>60 credits</i></p>
<p>120 credits (60 ECTS credits) Certificate of Higher Education (Exit Award)</p>	

Level 5	
Semester One	<p>LAUCW511 Creative Encounters and the Literary Landscape <i>60 credits</i></p>
Semester Two	<p>LAUCW512 Dreamers and Disruptors <i>60 credits</i></p>

120 credits (60 ECTS credits)

Diploma of Higher Education
(Exit Award)

Level 6

Semester One	LAUCW611 Process and Poetics <i>60 credits</i>
Semester Two	LAUCW612 Industry and Advancement <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 Use craft techniques appropriate to creative writing.	LAUCW411 LAUCW412
CW4.02 Describe the features of primary texts and employ these in your creative writing.	LAUCW411 LAUCW412
CW4.03 Discuss literary, artistic and critical traditions and contexts related to creative writing.	LAUCW412
CW4.04 Use reflective writing as a means to appraise your learning, creative practice and creative problem-solving.	LAUCW411 LAUCW412
CW4.05 Describe the impact constructing verbal and written feedback has had on your creative writing practice.	LAUCW411 LAUCW412
CW4.06 Recognise the role audience and reader plays in bringing texts to life as imaginative experiences.	LAUCW412
CW4.07 Express how collaboration has developed your thinking about your creative practice and industry awareness.	LAUCW411

CW4.08 Describe and appraise the development of your self-management skills and your growing independence in learning.	LAUCW411 LAUCW412
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Level 5 (DipHE)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 5, you will be expected to:</i>	
CW5.01 Experiment with literary forms, craft technique and editorial approaches, to demonstrate your knowledge, skill and learning in creative writing.	LAUCW511 LAUCW512
CW5.02 Analyse craft techniques as used by writers and test this learning through creative practice.	LAUCW512
CW5.03 Illustrate and problematise your understanding of historical, cultural, social and industry contexts related to creative writing.	LAUCW511 LAUCW502
CW5.04 Construct actionable reflective writing, evidencing your creative and research process and how this has developed your creative practice.	LAUCW511 LAUCW512
CW5.05 Illustrate how the writing workshop, constructing verbal and written feedback, has developed your critical, creative and ethical skills.	LAUCW511 LAUCW512
CW5.06 Explore industry expectations and audience awareness to enforce and enrich your creative practice, and explore how you may position yourself within the creative industries.	LAUCW511
CW5.07 Devise and apply a range of collaboration techniques to work with peers, arts practitioners and external partners in the creative industries, to diversifying your creative practice.	LAUCW511
CW5.08 Manage tasks within your critical research and creative exploration, while organising your workload to deliver appropriate creative and critical outcomes to set deadlines.	LAUCW511 LAUCW512

Level 6 (BA Hons)

Level Learning Outcomes	Modules
<i>By the end of Level 6, you will be expected to:</i>	
CW6.01 Devise self-directed projects that synthesis appropriate craft, techniques and editorial approaches to produce articulate, artistically coherent and technically considered creative writing.	LAUCW612
CW6.02 Critically interrogate and articulate the importance of reading in your writing practice and assess the technical features of texts through practical and theoretical research methods.	LAUCW611 LAUCW612
CW6.03 Appraise individual writers and texts through their historical, cultural, social and industry contexts.	LAUCW611 LAUCW612
CW6.04 Evaluate and contextualise, through critically aware reflective writing, your critical and creative exploration, evidencing the development of your creative practice.	LAUCW611
CW6.05 Compose coherent, constructive and rationalised feedback in response to your peers' creative writing, as means to appraise your critical, creative, ethical and professional skills.	LAUCW611 LAUCW612

CW6.06 Judge your position in the knowledge economy, identify opportunities to engage with a defined audience and express how this will develop your creative practice.	LAUCW612
CW6.07 Evaluate employability strategies, how your collaborative and creative skills are transferrable to the creative industries, entrepreneurship and the knowledge economy.	LAUCW612
CW6.08 Define your own research and creative exploration, manage various work streams, devise and organising your workload to deliver punctual and appropriate creative and critical outcomes.	LAUCW611 LAUCW612

6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategies

Our overall approach to engagement is outlined in our statement on [Higher Education teaching & learning at Leeds Arts University](#).

6a. Teaching and Learning

Level 4

In your first year you will explore the possibilities of writing and begin to find your unique voice as a writer. You will write abundantly, across a range of forms, genres and styles. The aim here is to enable yourself to learn through a process of experimentation, with both analogue and digital modes of writing, supported by tutors, guest writers and your peers.

You will enter into the wider conversation of literature and media, through engagement with the work of other writers, from classic texts to contemporary practitioners. Workshops aimed to explore specific features of the form and craft of creative writing will support you to define your place within cultural, literary, artistic, social and geographical contexts. Sharing work with your peers is a foundation of the course and your growth as a writer. In the writing workshop you will learn to develop your critical articulation while supporting fellow writers and integrating yourself in a supportive and engaged writing community.

You will chart your engagement with the course material through ongoing reflective writing, seeking to articulate your development and creative choices. You will also reflect on the ethics associated with creative writing, from the types of character and experience you create to how you interact with you fellow writers. Further discovery will be made through meaningful academic writing, allowing you to demonstrate your critical awareness.

Exploration and Expression enables you to experiment with approaches to writing and developing new ways of thinking about writing. We will consider the relationship between form and content, between the writer and their work, between the reader and the written (the text). You will engage in lectures, seminars and workshops to develop your technical and creative understanding of the art and craft of writing.

Structure and Substance develops your engagement with literary form and how writers define what is possible in poetry, prose fiction, prose nonfiction and scriptwriting. Through investigation of form, and the features and craft that make up form, you will better articulate your creativity within specific literary modes and begin to recognise the interplay between literary forms. You will also develop your academic writing skills, recognising this as a distinct form of writing.

There will be opportunities to work collaboratively with your fellow writers and practitioners from other disciplines. These creative engagements will allow you to better understand your specific interests as a writer and enable you to articulate your individual writer's voice.

Level 5

Building on the foundations of Level 4, your second year of study will allow you to move towards an autonomous, original and questioning writing practice. You will consider your writing practice and

outcomes in local, regional, national and international contexts, both in terms of where you are writing from and who you are writing towards.

Cultural Encounters and the Literary Landscape challenges you to look outward and ask what it means to be a writer in Leeds, in West Yorkshire, in the UK, in this contemporary moment, and what you bring to these encounters, through your personal, cultural and social circumstances. Through interaction with the region's cultural industries and literary landscape, you will respond to 'creative briefs', offering your individual response to wider cultural and critical questions and provocations. Here, you will display a more nuanced appreciation of audience and location within your writing practice. As well as develop your creative awareness, these interactions will allow you to understand the role of writer in the creative industries and knowledge economy. Alongside these creative encounters, you will think and write critically about place and about the role of writer today, as well as your own personal, cultural and social circumstances. This module is industry focussed and you will have the opportunity to identify the variety of roles writers inhabit across the cultural sector.

While the first semester focusses on you and your writing through a geographic and cultural lens, Dreamers and Disruptors presents you with a range of writers and texts that seek to redefine what is possible across form and content. These texts push against the dominate narratives, exploring unasked questions and giving platform to marginalised voices. You will consider work across forms and hybrid forms of writing, from writers from a range of backgrounds, geographical locations and experiences. Using these texts to begin your enquiry, you will draw the external inward to further define your own voice and interests as a writer, producing both creative and academic writing outcomes. You will also engage with the act of revision and rewriting to understand it as a distinct and indispensable element of the writing process. This progression will be recorded through your ongoing reflective writing. This module intends to further develop your understanding of the ethical aspects of creative writing.

You will deepen your technical, creative and analytic skills through engagement with an increasingly self-directed and collaborative range of writing activities and briefs, intended to reflect real-world professional writing opportunities. Through ongoing writing workshops, you will formulate considered practical responses to the critical judgements of others, while developing a generous yet rigorous critical eye.

Level 6

As you reach the final year of your degree, you will be supported to examine your own creative practice, to evidence both what you do as a writer and how you do it. You will seek out meaningful professional opportunities to better understand yourself as a developing creative professional and entrepreneur. Supported and encouraged by your writing peers, you will instigate critically aware acts of writing to demonstrate how and why you write. This reflective process will underpin your final project, which will synthesise all that you have learned and developed across your undergraduate training.

Poetics and Process enables you to appraise and define your creative practice within literary traditions, the contemporary creative industries and your own personal and cultural experience. Through an extended piece of academic writing, you will critically evaluate how writers articulate their practice and intentions. There will be regular opportunity to present your ongoing test writing and research to your peers for feedback. While you are expected to work with a greater sense of autonomy and independence, tutors will continue to provide creative provocations and prompts, to foster experimentation and creativity, and you will also develop your own writing prompts to demonstrate your specific artistic concerns.

After this reflective, analytic enquiry, Industry and Advancement turns your attention outward. You will produce and deliver considered, coherent, ambitious and imaginative written work, which articulates a combination of your research and creative ideas. This writing will be developed in consideration of contemporary creative and literary industries. Towards professionalisation, you will consider what it means to create a robust and resilient writing life, recognising the opportunities open to writers and identifying your transferable skills.

More than ever, your exploration will be underpinned by the writing workshop, where you will share your work with a group of peers who both seek to support the development of your craft and who look to you as a critical friend.

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.

Your creative output therefore, is the application 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.