

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Creative Writing and English				
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBACWEN_C (full-time) UBACWREN_C (part-time)				
5	UCAS code	4J93				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time, 4 years part-time				
9	Mode of Study	FT	x	PT	x	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level: 6				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	English				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>The joint degree offers students the core of the Creative Writing programme in areas of poetry, playwriting, screenwriting, the short story, and genre fiction, and allows the student to take critical subjects in analogous English Literature modules. The emphasis of the joint degree is less on the vocational aspects of writing and its related industries; it is geared more to the traditional academic student, limiting the necessity for the student to engage in publishing projects, learn editorial skills and giving a focus on literary critical modules.</p> <p>This degree will combine many of the main aims and distinctive features of both the BA English and the BA Creative Writing.</p> <p>Main Aims:</p> <p>This programme will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer literature and creative writing courses that offer face-to-face teaching to part-time and full-time mature students by teachers from a School rated 5* in research and 'excellent' in teaching. • Enable students to develop their skills as writers of fiction, poetry, and drama with published specialists. • Offer a curriculum that combines breadth of module provision and flexibility of choice. • Deepen students' awareness of form and elements of the writer's craft. • Develop students' skills of self-evaluation and constructive analysis of their own work and the work of others. • Provide students with a broad and balanced understanding of the practices of reading and researching through literary theory and creative writing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer a balanced degree programme enabling students to engage imaginatively in the reading and analysing of literary texts from all periods from Anglo-Saxon to the present; to develop independent critical judgement; and to write lucid, logical and well-structured prose while also developing their own creative work. • Offer students the opportunity to undertake and complete a long-term creative and critical writing project. • Enable students to develop skills in editing and revising their own critical and creative writing. • Enable students to engage imaginatively in the analysis and interpretation of texts as well as develop their own practices as writers. • Develop students' independent critical judgement, helping them attain understanding of the histories, conventions, and processes of various writing genres, and to present lucid, logical, and well-structured work. • Produce well-rounded students capable of independently evaluating and engaging creatively and critically with the current literary scene.
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15	Entry Criteria
	<p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>All applicants, whatever their academic background, may be asked to submit a sample of 500 words of creative writing (fiction, poetry, drama, or screenwriting) and/or a short close analytical reading of a poem.</p> <p>UCAS Tariff Points: 112-128 points, A-levels: ABB-BBC</p> <p>The UCAS tariff score is applicable to students who have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence.</p> <p>Alternative Entry Routes: Access to Higher Education Diploma with a minimum of 15 credits achieved at Merit or Distinction in the subject area, although we may waive these formal entry requirements and make our own assessment based on the creative writing sample.</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Graduates of BA Creative Writing and English will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have gained a wider and deeper knowledge of English literature. 2. Demonstrate control of elements of the creative writer's craft in their own work. 3. Have developed the ability to write analytically. 4. Have learned to recognize, discuss, and write about forms and genres of literary text. 5. Use language more confidently, precisely, and imaginatively. 6. Be acquainted with current and recent critical theories relevant to the study of literature and learned to apply them as critical tools.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Maintain a regular writing habit and produce more effective creative work independently. 8. Be able to discuss and evaluate the work of fellow students and established writers in relation to elements of the writer's craft. 9. Have gained critical skills in the close reading and analysis of literary texts. 10. Be able to implement the practices of redrafting and editing. 11. Have gained the ability to choose appropriate subjects and to write about them, as well as the ability to edit, develop, and extend an analytical creative piece of work. 12. Have developed research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organise material independently and critically and to present it in the form of an essay, report, presentation or creative piece 13. Be able to experiment with style and form. 14. Have gained skills of self-evaluation enabling them to reflect on their own practice. 15. Utilise critical skills in the close reading and analysis of creative texts. 16. Have gained bibliographical skills including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work. 17. Have produced a viable extended writing project and/or creative work in consultation with a supervisor. 18. Have gained intellectual independence: this involves the ability to gather, sift, select, organise, and synthesise evidence and subject matter; the ability to choose appropriate subjects and to write about them, as well as the ability to edit, develop, and extend a piece of creative or critical work.
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17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Modules at Levels 4 and 5 are taught by lectures and seminars and workshops.</p> <p>Modules at Level 6 are usually taught in seminar groups or workshop groups.</p> <p>Assessment on Creative Writing modules is 100% coursework.</p> <p>Assessment on English literature modules includes essays and examinations, as well as a range of exercises designed to evaluate different abilities and prepare students for more concentrated forms of academic writing.</p>

18	Programme Description
	<p>Full Time</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Creative Writing Modules: The four Level 4 (15 credit) Creative Writing modules are designed to introduce students to the basic elements of craft in the writing of drama, poetry, the short story and genre fiction.</p> <p>English Modules: This will be balanced by a core (30 credit) English Literature module in Reading Literature that introduces students to the foundational skills of close reading needed to study English Literature (with a focus on poetry) at university.</p> <p>Joint Modules: Students will also study 'Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques' (30 Credits) alongside BA English and BA Creative Writing students.</p>

In addition to this, all students must take the zero weighted module 'Doing English', which will help students gain and practice the skills they need to study English at university.

Year 2

The Level 5 compulsory Creative Writing module is Narrative Methods, which focuses on developing the student's longer form fiction and non-fiction. This is complemented by the compulsory literature module, The Novel, which develops critical skills with a concentration on critically evaluating longer form fiction. Students must choose one option module from BA English and one option from BA Creative Writing.

Year 3

All joint honours students must take the Level Six compulsory Module, the Creative Critical Seam. Students may choose to undertake a Dissertation in English Literature (a long essay on a subject of their own choice) or a Dissertation in Creative Writing. Students then select two option modules, one from BA English and one from BA Creative Writing. The joint honours degree also allows students to choose from option modules on related programmes in the School of Arts (e.g. BA Arts and Humanities).

All Creative Writing modules are in seminar and workshop format, which comprise close reading of exemplar texts, mini-lectures on aspects of craft, discussion of student work and the provision of regular, detailed feedback, written and verbal. On the literature side, Level 4 and Level 5 modules are taught in a combination of lecture and seminar groups.

Part Time

Year 1

Creative Writing Modules: Students take 2 Level 4 (15 credit) Creative Writing modules designed to introduce them to the basic elements of craft in the writing the short story and genre fiction.

English Modules: This will be balanced by a core (30 credit) English Literature module in Reading Literature that introduces students to the foundational skills of close reading needed to study English Literature (with a focus on poetry) at university.

Joint Modules: Students will also study 'Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques' (30 Credits) alongside BA English and BA Creative Writing students.

In addition to this, all students must take the 0 weighted module 'Doing English', which will help students gain and practice the skills they need to study English at university.

Year 2

The Level 5 compulsory Creative Writing module is Narrative Methods, which focuses on developing the student's longer form fiction and non-fiction. This is complemented by the compulsory literature module, The Novel, which develops critical skills with a concentration on critically evaluating longer form fiction. Students also take Introduction to Drama (15 credits) and Introduction to Creative Writing (15 credits)

Year 3

All joint honours students must take the Level Six compulsory Module, the Creative Critical Seam. Students must choose one option module from BA English and one option from BA Creative Writing at Level 5.

Year 4

Students may choose to undertake a Dissertation in English Literature (a long essay on a subject of their own choice) or a Dissertation in Creative Writing. Students then select two

	option modules, one from BA English and one from BA Creative Writing (at level 6 – 30 credits). The joint honours degree also allows students to choose from option modules on related programmes in the School of Arts (e.g. BA Liberal Arts).
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19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Core
4	ENHU006S4	Reading Literature	30	Core
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Core
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Core
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Core
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screen Writing	15	Core
4	AREN208Z4	Doing English	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN005S5	Narrative Methods	30	Core
5	ENHU009S5	The Novel	30	Comp
5	Option from range of approved modules within English Literature		30	Optional
5	Option from range of approved modules within Creative Writing (either Playwriting or Poetry)		30	Optional
Year 3				
(Students must take at least 30 credits in English and 30 Credits in Creative Writing in their final year.)				
6	ENHU051S6 Or AREN171S6	Dissertation (BA English) Dissertation (BA Creative Writing)	30	Comp
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Comp
6	Option from range of approved modules within English Literature or School of Arts.		30	Optional
6	Optional Module from Creative Writing or School of Arts.		30	Optional

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
4	AREN256S4	Storytelling: Narrative Archetypes, Forms and Techniques	30	Core
4	ENHU006S4	Reading Literature	30	Core
4	AREN004H4	Independent Reading Portfolio: The Short Story	15	Core
4	AREN203H4	Introduction to Screen Writing	15	Core
4	AREN208Z4	Doing English	0	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
5	AREN005S5	Narrative Methods	30	Core
5	ENHU009S5	The Novel	30	Comp
4	AREN219H4	Introduction to Poetry	15	Core
4	AREN220H4	Introduction to Drama	15	Core
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	AREN221S6	The Creative Critical Seam	30	Comp
5	Various	Option from range of approved modules within English Literature	30	Optional
5	Various	Option from range of approved modules within Creative Writing (either Scriptwriting or Poetry)	30	Optional
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
6	Various	Optional Module from English Literature or School of Arts.	30	Optional
6	Various	Option from range of approved modules within Creative Writing or School of Arts	30	Optional
6	ENHU051S6 Or AREN171S6	Dissertation (BA English) Dissertation (Creative Writing)	30	Comp

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

20	Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf Credit Transfer

	<p>Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations • Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A
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21	Student Attendance Framework – in brief
	<p>The full version of the ‘Student Attendance Framework’ is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.</p>

22	Student Support and Guidance
	<p>All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities</p>

23	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards
	<p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality</p>

24	Programme Director	Dr Steve Willey
25	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2015
26	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2015
27	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2015
28	Date(s) updated/amended	July 2020 (for 2020/21)