

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MFA Creative Writing				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMFCWRIT_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	English, Theatre and Creative Writing				
7	Exit Award(s)	PG Cert				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	Two years PT/one year FT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	7				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	<u>QAA Benchmark Statement</u>	N/A				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>We are offering this MFA Part-Time over two years. The first year will consist of a taught module in all three terms, plus one-to-one tutorials. The second year will be a write-up year of a dissertation of 40,000 words with one-to-one tutorials offered throughout the year.</p> <p>Full-time will be over one year with the write up year running concurrently with the three terms of taught modules.</p> <p>Part-time mode of study</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Core: Advanced Writing Workshop</p> <p>Core: Reading and Writing the Contemporary</p> <p>Option: Writing Craft Lecture series</p> <p>Year 2</p> <p>Dissertation Supervision</p> <p>Full-time mode of study</p> <p>Year 1</p> <p>Core: Advanced Writing Workshop</p> <p>Core: Reading and Writing the Contemporary</p> <p>Option: Writing Craft Lecture series</p> <p>Core: Dissertation Supervision</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>Portfolio of 5000 words of original writing (Fiction or Creative Non-Fiction) that demonstrates a high literary standard</p> <p>Two academic/professional references</p>
16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>For MA Creative Writing graduates who wish to return to university, or for writers already producing work of a high literary standard, the MFA will offer intensive teaching and one-to-one supervision from our faculty of published authors.</p> <p>The students will be Part-Time, attending all core modules in the first year: the Advanced Fiction Workshop in the Autumn; the Reading & Writing the Contemporary seminar in the Spring (with contributions from the academic faculty); the Craft of Fiction Lecture Series in the Summer.</p> <p>In the second year, students will write-up their dissertations with one-to-one supervision support from our Creative Writing faculty. The dissertation leading to the MFA award will be no less than 40,000 words and the student will be given strong support in shaping this work to a standard where it may be offered to literary agents.</p> <p>There will be opportunities to gain editorial experience assisting with Birkbeck’s literary magazine, The Mechanics Institute Review (now in its twelfth year) and our website, Writers Hub that updates its content every week.</p> <p>Further learning outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable students to develop their skills as writers of fiction. • Deepen students’ awareness of form and elements of the writer’s craft. • Provide students with opportunities to interact regularly with fellow writers. • Develop students’ skills of self-evaluation and constructive analysis of the work of others. • Enable students to develop skills in editing and revising their own writing. • Develop students’ awareness of the industry-standard expectations for their creative work. • Broaden students’ knowledge and critical judgment of the histories, conventions, and processes of fiction • Encourage students to investigate fiction from a diverse range of cultures and how these works might inform and inspire their own writing.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Learning on the MFA begins in the workshop environment of the Advanced Writing Workshop, then developed through the Reading and Writing the Contemporary Seminar. However, the core of the MFA are the one-on-one dissertation tutorials. In these, personal guidance will be given to students by a tutor they will select during the first semester. The Craft of Writing Lecture Series offers a more formal lecture-based module.</p>

18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>Students enrolled on the MFA programme will attend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A core, autumn term Advanced Writing Workshop 2. A core, spring term Reading and Writing the Contemporary Seminar. 3. The Craft of Writing Lecture Series run by staff from English and Humanities 4. Dissertation supervisions will begin in the second semester of the first year for Part-Time students, and run throughout for Full-time Students. There will be three dissertation supervisions per semester. Dissertation length will be 40,000 words, consisting of fiction or creative non-fiction. <p>Advanced Writing Workshop. The emphasis will be placed on high quality writing throughout, independent of its genre. The group will develop an identity through honest and supportive critical responses over ten, three-hour workshops. Assessment will be on a 2,000 word Writing Portfolio demonstrating the work they have undertaken and plan to undertake towards their dissertation. This will comprise a. Book Proposal of 1,000 words for a work of Fiction or Creative Non-Fiction, b. Book Plan (either a Chapter Breakdown, or a Description of the Research and Writing Process) of 400 words, c. Research Bibliography, d. Research Materials, c. and d. to make up 600 words. Credit 30.00</p> <p>Reading and Writing the Contemporary Seminar. This will be lead each week by a different member of staff, both Creative Writing lecturers and academics in Modern and Contemporary Literature from the department of English and Humanities. The aim is for the students to develop a more complex critical and aesthetic awareness of literary qualities and techniques from a range of genres and to gain a sense of inclusivity in a world class research centre at Birkbeck. They will be expected to write an essay in response to these texts of 5,000 words, which will form the basis of the assessed work for this module. Credit 30.00</p> <p>Dissertation. Dissertation Supervision will be ongoing throughout the first and second years for PT students and in the first year for FT students. The supervisions will be led by one member of staff. The final supervision will be offered by a leading literary agent. Dissertation length is 40,000 words and shall be a collection of short stories, a novella, part of a novel, or creative non-fiction. Credits 120.00</p> <p>Craft of Writing Lecture Series. In the Summer term, tutors give lectures and lead discussions on various elements connected to the literary craft of writing: form and structure, style, language, theme, setting, character, the use of objects and landscapes in fiction. On some of the weeks, established novelists, literary agents and book publishers shall be invited to speak to the students.</p>
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¹⁹	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN224S7	Advanced Fiction Workshop	30	Core
	AREN223S7	Reading and Writing the Contemporary	30	Core
		Craft Lecture Series	0	Option
	AREN222Q7	Dissertation	120	Core
Part Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN224S7	Advanced Fiction Workshop	30	Core
	AREN223S7	Reading and Writing the Contemporary	30	Core
		Craft Lecture Series	0	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	AREN222Q7	Dissertation	120	Core

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

²⁴	Programme Director	Toby Litt
²⁵	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2017
²⁶	Date approved by TQEC	December 2016
²⁷	Date approved by Academic Board	December 2016
²⁸	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2018 (for 2019/20)