

# Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

## For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	MA Creative Writing
<b>Award type</b>	Taught Masters
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time Part-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 7
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	1 year full-time or 2 years part-time
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	n/a
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK students:</b></p> <p>Full-time fee for 2024/25 is £9,800</p> <p>Part-time fee for 2024/25 is £5,400*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2024/25 is £19,500*</p>

**How this information might change:** Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

\*We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

### 2. Overview of the Programme

Keele's MA in Creative Writing aims to develop self-sustaining writers equipped with a substantial sample of publication-ready creative work.

The MA combines intensive development of a student's artistic and writerly understanding of their creative practice with an awareness of how the working writer is part of, and engages with, a context of community, collaboration and contemporary themes in published literary works. It includes an explicit strand of community-oriented practice across many modules, serving an embedded sense that 'professional' skills are as important as 'writerly' skills.

Modules are variously focused on analysis of the contemporary world of writing, activity and feedback sessions on draft writing in fiction, poetry, script and life writing, as well as opportunities to experiment with less conventional forms of writing such as creative non-fiction. The emphases of the Programme are development of one's own writing, alongside experience of collaborative work and practice within the communities in which

writers operate.

At MA level at Keele, we aim to guide and advise talented students towards imaginative writing of an advanced, publishable standard, where publishable does not mean that every student will get published, but that their work is of a standard to be published if market conditions are favourable.

The Keele MA is aimed at students who are already writers with a body of work, who wish to improve and develop their writing to the point where they have a part-manuscript that could potentially be offered to a publisher. It offers such students an opportunity to develop and improve their writing by working with published authors and other students in a workshop situation. Of equal importance is the opportunity it offers for writers to understand their work in a critical context and in relation to contemporary writing and culture.

The Keele MA exposes writers to the kinds of discussion and critical interaction that will enable them to see their writing not just as self-expression, but as part of an evolving literary tradition, as well as situating it in contemporary contexts and practices. Students will benefit by gaining knowledge and understanding of the following:

- critical self-awareness about the writing process and the literary work;
- an understanding of contemporary/professional practices and emphases in literary publishing;
- a thorough understanding of the history and development of at least one specified literary genre;
- writing a specified literary genre to a publishable standard.

### **3. Aims of the programme**

Keele University offers a Single Honours Creative Writing Programme at undergraduate level. Whilst the MA partly builds on the strands of creativity, community and digital platforms in that programme, it is also suitable for writers from other routes and at other stages of their development. It also forms part of a developed and growing writing culture in the institution, which extends to readings, publications, workshops, and writers' groups.

The broad aims of the programme are to:

- provide opportunities for the practice and study of creative writing at an advanced, publishable level;
- provide a supportive and constructively critical environment in which students can work with published writers and their peers to improve their writing;
- to promote ideas of 'the working writer', engaged in communities and aware of contemporary trends and practices;
- to promote collaborative creative practice;
- provide students with the necessary skills to write at an advanced, publishable level.

### **4. What you will learn**

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

#### **Subject knowledge and understanding**

Successful students will gain:

- Critical self-awareness in relation to the writing process.
- Critical awareness about the literary work
- A critical understanding of a specified literary genre.
- An understanding of the contemporary literary ecology with regard to published work

#### **Subject specific skills**

Successful students will gain:

- Writing skills to an advanced, publishable level
- An advanced level of critical skills
- A developed understanding of literary community, contemporaneity and collaborative creativity
- The knowledge to sustain themselves as practitioners of creative writing

## Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will gain:

- Advanced communication skills
- Time management and planning
- The ability to present complex, critical ideas effectively
- The ability to give and accept constructive criticism
- Understanding and experience of collaborative and community-oriented creative practice.

### The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical awareness**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## 5. How is the programme taught?

The Programme is taught via seminars, workshops, individual projects and supervisions.

Core academic modules are typically taught in 2-hour seminar sessions and explore a range of crucial ideas and practical considerations for the working writer, including the relationship between writing and contemporary cultural criticism; current and emerging themes in literary publications; and practices in the world of writing and publishing. In these sessions, tutors and students present and discuss relevant questions in their own research and/or writing and on key areas of debate in contemporary culture.

Core creative modules offer a range of activities and opportunities to develop students' writing by stimulating new writing and gaining feedback on draft work-in-progress. These modules examine the typical methods of feedback and critique given and received by working writers - peer review, workshops, masterclasses, mentoring etc. and uses a cluster of activities to allow students to test and refine their writing in collaboration with established writers from within and outside the University.

Project modules give students real world practical opportunity to explore collaborative and community-oriented uses of their writing practice, providing insight into how writers interact and work with the ecology of writers in which they work, as well as experience of the professional activities of writers in their communities.

The 'Portfolio' (Dissertation) module is taught through individual supervision. This includes regular individual and/or small group supervision meetings providing students with opportunities to

- Discuss their writing plans and structure
- Get advice on reading, research and writing
- Review their progress

These supervision meetings offer an important opportunity for students to discuss their ideas with the tutor.

Teaching on the modules is supplemented by a visiting speaker programme that includes creative writers and which may include other professionals in the literary arts.

## 6. Teaching Staff

The Keele Creative Writing Team is composed of experienced and successful published writers in Fiction, Poetry, Script, Life Writing and Creative Non-Fiction.

Modules are designed and delivered by specialists in the various disciplines of writing, all of whom have experience in both the creative and professional activity of writing for publication. These writers work collaboratively and specifically to develop your understanding of your own writing practice, as well as raising your awareness of how that writing practice (in fiction, poetry, life writing or script) can be enriched by cross-disciplinary work with writers in other disciplines.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

## 7. What is the structure of the programme?

Please note that the optional modules will vary from year to year.

### MA

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Writer as Critic, The Critic as Writer	ENG-40018	30	Semester 1
The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	ENG-40075	30	Semester 1
Workshops and Masterclasses	ENG-40077	30	Semester 2
Portfolio	ENG-40079	60	Semester 2-3

Optional Modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Writer in the Community	ENG-40041	30	Semester 2
Work Placement for PG	ENG-40057	30	Semester 1-2
Portfolio (Diploma)	ENG-40048	30	Semester 2-3

### Postgraduate Diploma

After 120 credits students will have gained a thorough knowledge of the relationship between writing and contemporary criticism and a firm grounding in the skills required to write in two literary genres.

Module	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	ENG-40075	30	Semester 1
Workshops and Masterclasses	ENG-40077	30	Semester 2
Portfolio (Diploma)	ENG-40048	30	Semester 3
<b>and one of the following options:</b>			
The Writer as Critic the Critic as Writer	ENG-40018	30	Semester 1
The Writer in the Community	ENG-40041	30	Semester 2
Work Placement for PG	ENG-40057	30	Semester 1-2
<b>TOTAL CREDITS: 120</b>			

### Postgraduate Certificate

After 60 credits students will have gained a thorough knowledge of the relationship between writing and contemporary criticism and a firm grounding in the skills required to write in one literary genre.

Module	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	ENG-40075	30	Semester 1
<b>and one of the following options:</b>			
Workshops and Masterclasses	ENG-40077	30	Semester 2
The Writer in the Community	ENG-40041	30	Semester 2
<b>TOTAL CREDITS: 60</b>			

## Programme Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The tables below outline the possible routes (part-time or full-time) for the three different exit awards (MA, PGDip, and PGCert).

### MA Part-time

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
<b>Year 1</b>	The Writer as Critic, The Critic as Writer	The Writer in the Community	
<b>Year 2</b>	The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	Workshops and Masterclasses	Portfolio

### MA Full-time

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
<b>Year 1</b>	The Writer as Critic, the Critic as Writer	The Writer in the Community	
	The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	Workshops and Masterclasses	Portfolio

### Diploma Part-time

	Semester 1	Semester 2
<b>Year 1</b>	The Writer as Critic	Workshops and Masterclasses OR The Writer in the Community
<b>Year 2</b>	The Working Writer	Portfolio (Diploma)

### Diploma Full-time

	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	The Writer as Critic	Workshops and Masterclasses OR The Writer in the Community
	The Working Writer	Portfolio (Diploma)

### **Certificate Part-time**

	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	The Working Writer	Workshops and Masterclasses OR The Writer in the Community

### **Certificate Full-time**

	<b>Autumn</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	The Writer as Critic
	The Working Writer

All modules may be taken as CPD short courses and the credits may later be included under the University's Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy towards an MA. Further details relating to the University's policy regarding RPL can be found via <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

<b>Year</b>	<b>Compulsory</b>	<b>Optional</b>	
		<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>
Level 7	150	30	30

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## **Module Lists**

### **Level 7**

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
The Writer as Critic, The Critic as Writer	ENG-40018	30	Semester 1
The Working Writer : Practices and Contexts	ENG-40075	30	Semester 1
Workshops and Masterclasses	ENG-40077	30	Semester 2
Portfolio	ENG-40079	60	Semester 3

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Work Placement for Humanities Postgraduates	ENG-40057	30	Semester 1-2
The Writer in The Community : Practical Project	ENG-40041	30	Semester 2
Portfolio (PG Diploma)	ENG-40048	30	Semester 2-3

### **Level 7 Module Rules**

Students must take ONE of ENG-40041 or ENG-40057

ENG-40048 is an alternative short Dissertation for Diploma students only, and replaces ENG-40079 when the exit route is Diploma.

### **Learning Outcomes**

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Critical self-awareness in relation to the writing process.	All modules
Critical awareness about literary work and its ecology	All modules
A critical understanding of a specified literary genre.	The Working Writer Workshops and Masterclasses Portfolio Portfolio (Diploma)

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Writing skills to an advanced, publishable level	Workshops and Masterclasses Portfolio Portfolio (Diploma)
An advanced level of critical skills	All modules

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Advanced communication skills	The Writer as Critic The Working Writer Workshops and Masterclasses The Writer in the Community
Time management and planning	The Writer as Critic The Working Writer The Writer in the Community Portfolio Portfolio (Diploma)
The ability to present complex, critical ideas effectively	The Writer as Critic The Working Writer The Writer in the Community
The ability to give and accept constructive criticism	The Working Writer The Writer in the Community Workshops and Masterclasses Portfolio Portfolio (Diploma)
The ability to create strategies to meet commissions and challenges with one's creative practice	The Working Writer The Writer in the Community

## 8. Final and intermediate awards

<b>Master's Degree</b>	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Diploma</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
<b>Postgraduate Certificate</b>	60 credits	You will require at least 40 credits at Level 7

## 9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- written assignments in a specified literary genre;
- verbal presentations;
- written assignments in the form of a critical essay;
- a portfolio of writing in a specified literary genre. The Portfolio consists of a substantial writing portfolio in one genre equivalent to a short collection of poetry or short stories, a novella or part of novel. The Portfolio is taught initially through individual supervision and exchanges of ideas and drafts via email.

The marking of assignments is subject to clear, discipline-specific criteria appropriate to FHEQ level 7. Creative writing assignments are judged according to the following criteria:

- use of correct English (apart from the very occasional slip) in grammar, sentence-structure, punctuation and control of appropriate literary forms (stanzas, metre, paragraphs, dialogue etc.);
- evidence of technical control, control of literary form and control of voice, style, idiom and register;
- elements of originality in a conventional framework skilfully constructed (may be strikingly original but not well-organised; or it maybe extremely skilful in its use of convention but show little originality);
- showing the potential to be eloquent and memorable;
- the subject-matter of the work will have been explored with some insight and breadth of viewpoint.
- knowledge and understanding of form and subject-matter will be evident.

As one would expect in a creative writing programme, the assessment of writing assignments lies at the core of the programme. For more detail on the form and length of assessments please see the module outlines.



Students present work in progress in the creative writing workshops and receive feedback from fellow students and the workshop tutor. They present work in progress to their supervisor for the Portfolio (Dissertation) module and receive feedback and suggestions for revision.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

## **10. Accreditation**

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## **11. University Regulations**

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## **12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?**

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/>

## **13. How are students supported on the programme?**

Where possible, students are allocated their supervisor for the Portfolio module (Dissertation module) at the beginning of the programme and work with that supervisor on their chosen genre (Poetry, Fiction, Script or Life Writing). Students are allocated Academic Mentors for welfare and study-related issues. In addition, the Programme Director is available for consultation on module choices and to offer supplementary welfare guidance. Module tutors give feedback on assessments.

## **14. Learning Resources**

The Keele Writing Room (currently CBB1.056) is often the main teaching room, but outside teaching hours, it is available to students as a place to work and exchange views with other students.

MS Teams supplements the KLE (Keele's virtual learning environment) for communication, teaching activities and document storage, and also gives information about events.

The Keele Hall Readings Programme is an approximately fortnightly event in Keele Hall, featuring Visiting Writers and other inspiring events for the Creative Writing community at Keele.

The Library has a range of publications and online resources relevant to the programme.

## **15. Other Learning Opportunities**

The compulsory Writer in the Community module provides the opportunity to learn via experience of working with (eg) libraries, museums, schools and other internal and external collaborators.

## **16. Additional Costs**

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

Project Modules which involve working with an external partner may involve travel costs to attend premises outside Keele.

## **17. Quality management and enhancement**

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee, in which Student Voice Representatives guide Programme Staff on Programme feedback from students.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

## 18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>

b. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

The programme relates to the guidelines for teaching Creative Writing published by the National Association of Writers in Education (NAWE), which has been referenced as standard by the English Subject Centre. See the NAWE website: <http://www.nawe.co.uk/writing-in-education/writing-at-university/research.html>

## Version History

### This document

**Date Approved:** 10 June 2024

### Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2023/24	JAMES SHEARD	17 April 2023	
1	2022/23	JAMES SHEARD	29 April 2022	
1	2021/22	JAMES SHEARD	28 April 2022	
1	2020/21	JAMES SHEARD	28 April 2022	