

Programme Specification

English with Creative Writing (2020-21)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

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|---|---|
| Awarding Institution | University of Southampton |
| Teaching Institution | University of Southampton |
| Mode of Study | Full-time |
| Duration in years | 3 |
| Accreditation details | None |
| Final award | Bachelor of Arts with Honours (BA (Hons)) |
| Name of award | English with Creative Writing |
| Interim Exit awards | Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) |
| FHEQ level of final award | Level 6 |
| UCAS code | |
| Programme code | 8309 |
| QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference | |
| Programme Lead | Carole Burns |

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

How do you become a better writer? Our BA in English with Creative Writing allows you to develop your creative skills while honing your critical reading across a range of genres and periods. Our broad range of core English modules explore the political and social debates raised by literature, uncover the cultural and historical contexts that shape literary forms, and introduce you to writing from around the world. Workshops on core creative writing modules will enrich your understanding of short stories, novels, poetry, scriptwriting and narrative non-fiction, and encourage you to reflect on your own craft. Your final project gives you the opportunity to write an extended essay or complete an extended piece of imaginative writing, guided by our award-winning novelists, journalists, and playwrights.

Your degree will give you the breadth, depth, and practical experience to excel in your chosen literary form, develop your critical thinking alongside your knowledge of a range of literary periods and genres, and prepare you for a successful career in the creative industries, including publishing, arts management, and the heritage industry.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

You will be helped to achieve the learning outcomes by a broad portfolio of learning and assessment experiences.

- Lectures, seminars, and workshops: these two activities form the backbone of the teaching. Lectures are teacher-led, and allow lecturers to provide knowledge through information and analysis. Seminars involve student discussion, which may be more or less formal, and more or less student-led, and may at higher levels and in appropriate modules, involve very light supervision. In Creative Writing modules, seminars will often use the workshop method of teaching, where students in a group led by your lecturer will critique each others' creative work in a constructive and supportive atmosphere.
- These methods of teaching often overlap. Lectures may turn more towards seminar discussion, and may involve exercises, question and answer sessions, communal interpretation of visual material, and so on. Longer classes, whether lectures or seminars, are likely to involve a range of activities, such as lecture, student presentations (singly or in groups), use of digital, audio-visual material, etc. Seminar discussion also varies in style, and will frequently require teamwork and promote interpersonal skills.
- Your own research: you will be required to carry out personal research at all levels in the programme, but increasingly through Parts 2 and 3. Independence in learning is the hallmark of the maturing student of English with Creative Writing at Southampton.
- Giving presentations: presenting your ideas orally as well as in writing will be an important aspect of your work here. It is something you have to learn and an activity which helps you learn about your subject. There will be plenty of opportunities to practise your skills at oral presentation and these may form part of your assessment.
- IT: English with Creative Writing in the School of Humanities uses IT in its teaching, e.g., Blackboard (which is used throughout the programme); PowerPoint; email discussion lists, student presentations posted to the group electronically in advance of seminars, feedback on group exercises, etc. You will learn to access this material and, with guidance, to provide it.

Assessment

A varied portfolio of assessment activities is central to the Southampton English with Creative Writing experience, and one of the ways we ensure the high quality of our graduates. It will help to develop your intellectual flexibility both for the study itself and for future work. The following assessment tasks are used across our programme as formative and summative assessments:

- creative projects (including short stories, extracts from novels, poetry, and scripts)
- creative-critical responses involving a combination of imaginative and scholarly writing
- critique of creative work by fellow students in workshops
- essays
- dissertation
- oral presentations
- written report on oral presentation
- module journals
- diaries
- portfolios
- blogs
- group essays
- "take-away" examinations/timed essays
- "closed" examinations using questions of varying formats: essay-type; practical analyses; multiple short, information-based
- "closed" examinations whose questions have been pre-released up to 48 hours prior to the exam date
- modules may use student self-assessment and team work as formative means of feedback.

Regulation of Assessment:

Details of the regulation of assessment are available to students on the University Calendar (<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html>) and the assessment requirements for every module are published on the relevant Blackboard sites.

Special Features of the programme

A lively programme of visiting speakers give students the chance to meet writers, editors and agents, including graduates of Southampton's English programme. Recent guests have included Pulitzer Prize winner Jennifer Egan, Guardian author Gary Younge and Richard Pike, an agent with Curtis Brown and a graduate of our English programme.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's [programme validation process](#) which is described in the University's [Quality handbook](#).

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

- enable you to become persuasive, powerful and elegant writers.
- give you an understanding of the process of creative writing from beginning to end: how to hone initial ideas into a finished piece.
- give you an understanding of aspects of contemporary creative writing essential to diverse genres including story, character, meter, subtext, place and point of view.
- enable you to become skilled, thorough and efficient researchers of literary forms and cultural histories.
- give you the ability to analyse texts from a variety of media (including theatre, film, internet, and television), genres, and historical periods.
- help you to deal with the complex theoretical, political, literary, and creative and cultural issues that arise from both mainstream and marginalised texts.
- give you the opportunity to engage with culturally distant, sensitive or complex areas, such as medieval literature, postcolonialism, gender, the Holocaust.
- develop your own research and writing to a high standard so as to prepare you for postgraduate study of the discipline, if you wish it, or for the other varied career paths which our graduates take.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. the methods by which text of different kinds can be analysed
- A2. text in its historical and generic aspects
- A3. contemporary creative writing, both as a text for close study and as practice carried out by contemporary writers and yourself
- A4. the political dimensions of text, including gender politics, and the historical development of English in relation to colonialism, diaspora, and postcolonialism

- A5. vital elements of creative writing including narrative, character, setting, dialogue and voice
- A6. the effective deployment of personal judgement, independent powers of imagination, critical analysis, self-reflection, and argument
- A7. the effective deployment of the theoretical, critical, and scholarly research of others

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- B1. organise coherently ideas gained from a breadth of reading and cultural experience
- B2. produce your own creative work, articulating broader contextual influences
- B3. apply critical terminology and method, including critical analysis of published creative writing and works in progress, including your own
- B4. recognise the importance of and analyse literary contexts: linguistic, generic, social, historical and theoretical
- B5. engage in advanced independent thought and convey this effectively in writing
- B6. evaluate and use relevant critical theory and/or analytic method
- B7. recognise the rhetorical origins and character of literary emotion (affectivity)

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- C1. apply creative writing techniques across a wide range of genres
- C2. use feedback from colleagues and critical reading to improve your own writing
- C3. argue effectively and fluently, evaluating a range of viewpoints, both in group discussion and individually
- C4. write in a variety of voices, from good scholarly English to plainer, narrative English
- C5. plan and execute projects of different lengths with due attention to time and resource management
- C6. formulate and communicate your own ideas
- C7. use primary and secondary sources to inform your work

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

- D1. engage with the creative process, developing initial ideas as early drafts into polished versions through critical reading, constructive criticism and re-writing
- D2. write reflectively on your own creative work using primary and secondary sources to inform your ideas
- D3. conduct interdisciplinary research to inform your creative work

- D4. format a piece of creative writing in adherence to the professional norms in the genre in which you are writing, such as script, poem, or short story
- D5. demonstrate advanced/sophisticated scholarly writing with effective use of referencing conventions
- D6. demonstrate research skills, such as information gathering from traditional and electronic sources; the manipulation of data and information; recognizing the influence of multiple critics

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Part I Creative Writing Core Modules

You must take both of these modules for your core Creative Writing component.

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|--|------|------|
| ENGL1092 | A Stranger Comes to Town: Introduction to Creative Writing | 7.5 | Core |
| HUMA1040 | Humanities, the Human and the Non-Human | 7.5 | Core |

Part I English Core Modules

You must take both of these modules for your core English component.

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|----------------------|------|------|
| ENGL1086 | The Act of the Essay | 7.5 | Core |
| ENGL1090 | Theory & Criticism | 7.5 | Core |

Part I Optional Modules

You must select 60 credits from your optional modules. You can take up to 30 optional credits outside of English and Creative Writing.

Your option choices can support a number of informal pathways through the programme, including poetry (ENGL1004), drama (ENGL1091), and fiction (ENGL1089).

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|--|------|----------|
| ENGL1093 | English on the Move | 7.5 | Optional |
| FILM1020 | Film Theory and Visual Culture: Introduction to Psychoanalysis | 7.5 | Optional |
| FILM1027 | Introduction to Film: European Cinema | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL1080 | Literary Transformations | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL1004 | Poetic Language | 7.5 | Optional |
| PHIL1019 | Puzzles about Art and Literature | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL1089 | The Novel | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL1091 | World Dramas | 7.5 | Optional |

Part II

Part II Creative Writing Core Options

You must take a minimum of 30 credits from your core Creative Writing options.

Your choices of core options can support a number of informal pathways through the programme, including fiction (ENGL2075), drama (ENGL2078), and narrative non-fiction (ENGL2087).

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|---|------|------|
| ENGL2075 | Brief Encounters: Writing Short Stories | 15 | Core |
| ENGL2076 | Creative Writing after Modernism | 7.5 | Core |
| ENGL2087 | Great Writers Steal: Creative Writing and Critical Thinking | 7.5 | Core |
| ENGL2078 | Scriptwriting | 7.5 | Core |

Part II English Core Options

You must take a minimum of 30 credits from your core English options.

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|---|------|------|
| ENGL2107 | Decolonising Modernity | 15 | Core |
| ENGL2105 | Introduction to Nineteenth-Century British Literature | 15 | Core |
| ENGL2104 | Modernisms | 15 | Core |
| ENGL2080 | Queens, Devils and Players in Early Modern England | 15 | Core |
| ENGL2106 | Rakes to Romantics | 15 | Core |

Part II Optional Modules

You can take up to 60 credits from your optional modules.

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|--|------|----------|
| ENGL2091 | From Black and White to Colour: A Screen History of Race, Gender and Sexuality in Post-War Britain | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL2052 | Images of Women | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL2103 | Sweatshops, Sex workers, and Asylum Seekers: World Literature and Visual Culture after Globalisation | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL2094 | Victorian Feelings | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL2092 | Women Writers Remixed ca. 1850-1915 | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL2011 | Women, Writing and Modernity, 1770-1830 | 7.5 | Optional |

Part III

Part III Creative Writing Core Options

You must take a minimum of 30 credits from your Creative Writing core options.

Your choices of core options can support a number of informal pathways through the programme, including poetry (ENGL3087), drama (ENGL3049), fiction (ENGL3004), and narrative non-fiction (HUMA3011).

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|--|------|------|
| ENGL3097 | Animal Forms: poetry and the non-human | 7.5 | Core |
| ENGL3049 | Creative Writing in Schools | 7.5 | Core |
| HUMA3011 | Narrative Non-Fiction: The Interdisciplinary Art | 15 | Core |
| ENGL3004 | Writing the Novel | 15 | Core |

Part III English Core Modules

You must take a dissertation for your English option. You can choose a creative writing or critical topic for the project.

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|----------------------|------|------|
| ENGL3016 | English Dissertation | 15 | Core |

Part III Optional Modules

You can take up to 60 credits from your optional modules.

Your choices of core options can support a number of informal pathways through the programme, including fiction (ENGL3041, ENGL3056), drama (ENGL3091, ENGL3088), and narrative non-fiction (ENGL2087, ENGL3098).

| Code | Module Title | ECTS | Type |
|----------|---|------|----------|
| ENGL3091 | American dreams? Monetized bodies, terror, and trauma in American Drama | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3015 | Fantasy Film and Fiction | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3041 | Jane Austen and the Regency World | 15 | Optional |
| ENGL3089 | Literatures of Islands and Oceans | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3058 | Radical England: From Shakespeare to Milton | 7.5 | Optional |

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|----------|---|-----|----------|
| ENGL3100 | Revolution and Romanticism: Literature of the 1790s | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3088 | Sex and the City in Stuart Drama | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3099 | The Historical Novel | 7.5 | Optional |
| ENGL3098 | Utopias and Dystopias in Literature and Culture | 15 | Optional |
| ENGL3056 | Victorian Bestsellers | 15 | Optional |

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes](#) and [Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes](#) Any exemptions or variations to the University regulations, approved by AQSC are located in [section VI of the University Calendar](#).

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme.
- Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff/Student Liaison Committees, School Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
- Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation.
- Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group.

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the [Quality Handbook](#).

Career Opportunities

A full employability report is included in the validation documentation.

The practical writing skills offered by the degree prepare students for careers in marketing, PR, online content creation, and journalism. The focus on self-reflection, critical engagement, and sustained reading supports vocational careers in law, teaching, management, and the Civil Service.

Our series of alumni events give students detailed advice on how to establish themselves in publishing, freelance writing, and the literary industry, as well as forging important contacts with agents, editors, and publishing houses.

Our teaching methods foster the self-awareness, confidence, social vision, and ability to work collaboratively that all successful professionals need. We will teach students a range of language, communication, problem solving and team work skills. As the progress through the degree, they will have opportunities to develop as independent thinkers and practise transferable skills related to written and oral expression such as presentation, chairing and leading discussion and debate, and peer review. The creativity that is central to this degree encourages graduates to be resourceful, visionary, and confident.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Chloe Houston - University of Reading

Name: Dr Tristan Hughes - University of Cardiff

Name: Professor Peter Morey

Name: Professor Dale T Townshend - Manchester Metropolitan University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

| Type | Details |
|--|---|
| Computer discs or USB drives | Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device. |
| Hardware | It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus. |
| Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes) | Students on placement programmes can expect to cover costs for health and travel insurance, accommodation and living expenses; travel costs; visa costs. This will vary depending on which country you are travelling to. Specific details on what additional costs there will be are detailed in the individual module profiles which can be found under the modules tab of the programme details of your programme. |
| Printing and Photocopying Costs | <p>Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. The University printing costs are currently listed on http://www.southampton.ac.uk/learning-for-students/page</p> <p>The University Print Centre also offers a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. Current printing and copying costs can be found in http://www.southampton.ac.uk/copyrooms/service.page.</p> <p>They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters. Details of current costs can be found in http://www.southampton.ac.uk/academicposters.page?.</p> |
| Software Licenses | All software is provided |
| Stationery | You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile. |
| Textbooks | <p>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source.</p> <p>Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</p> |

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.