

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	MA Creative and Critical Writing
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	180 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year full-time
Intended Award	MA Creative and Critical Writing
Named Exit Awards	PgD Creative and Critical Writing PgC Creative and Critical Writing
Entry Requirements ⁴	A minimum of a second-class honours degree in a relevant, cognate discipline
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the MA Creative and Critical Writing course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2026-27 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The MA Creative and Critical Writing seeks to advance current research in English studies by exploring the meaningful, complex and conceptually challenging relationships between creative and critical discourses. Building on the success of our undergraduate programme ranked 8th in the UK for Creative Writing in the Guardian University Guide 2022, the course brings together the study of English literature, critical theory and creative writing in a holistic and engaging postgraduate curriculum.

On the course, students will experience an integrated approach to creative writing and contemporary developments in critical and cultural theories. They will attend talks with literary agents, published authors, and other industry experts, and can complete writing residencies, undertake research at Suffolk Archives, and publish their writing in the MA course anthology. Taught 'block and blend' modules connect with and reflect on each other, inviting students to develop their creative and critical writing skills both separately and as a blended form. The

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#) and further details about Disclosure and Barring Checks (DBS) can be found on the [University's DBS webpage](#).

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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course is underpinned by our shared ethos that all writing is critically reflective and creative. This approach opens new possibilities for creative fusion, innovative fiction, and original insights in academic writing.

The MA Creative and Critical Writing reflects the research interests and expertise of staff teaching English and Creative Writing within the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. The course is designed to allow students to make scholarly and imaginative connections between writing and theory under the guidance of published and award-winning academics and authors, while also benefitting from a vibrant multidisciplinary environment dedicated to excellence in learning, teaching and research. Our graduates have entered careers as book and magazine editors, teachers, librarians, research directors, museum assistants and student support officers. They have also commenced PhD study and obtained professional recognition for their writing achievements, such as being shortlisted for the Women's Prize Discoveries and receiving an Escalator fellowship from the National Centre for Writing.

Course Aims

The aims of the MA Creative and Critical Writing are to:

- provide an intellectually stimulating experience of learning and studying
- introduce students to speculative and reflective approaches to writing and reading
- encourage students to expand their thinking about the possibilities and challenges of writing (for example, aesthetic, cultural, or political)
- inspire enthusiasm for creative and critical writing, and an appreciation of its continuing social, cultural, political and economic importance
- support students in the development of their own writing, and develop their confidence through a critical understanding of their own creative process
- develop students' ability to contextualise their own work within the writing traditions that precede and surround them
- foster students' creative/artistic ambitions and support them in achieving their aspirations, offering direction and advice where necessary
- encourage students to recognise the skills and insights they develop through the programme and help them identify career opportunities to use them
- develop a high level of student autonomy and self-direction in order to facilitate the students to demonstrate initiative, originality, and integrity in their craft and scholarship.

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the MA Creative and Critical Writing course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with

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the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Knowledge and understanding	
Code	Learning Outcome
A1	Comprehensive understanding of some of the key texts and debates in the field of contemporary literature and critical theory, with a special focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries
A2	Originality and self-direction in the application of a multidisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary literature, critical theory and creative writing
A3	Practical understanding and critical evaluation of the creative process and the body of written works that surrounds it, as well as editorial approaches and processes
A4	Critical awareness of the context in which writing is produced and how individual practice relates to that of predecessors and contemporaries, peers and established practitioners
Intellectual / Cognitive skills	
B1	Systematic ability to synthesise and evaluate a diverse range of materials towards individual interpretations of themes, issues and debates in contemporary literature, critical theory and creative writing
B2	Refined ability to understand, interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical positions and weigh the importance of alternative perspectives
B3	Advanced skills of self-evaluation, intellectual independence, and ability to reflect on current research, methodologies and creative processes, as well as continuing personal and professional development
B4	Advanced ability to employ an imaginative and divergent mode of thinking which is integral to making critical and reflective judgements, generating alternatives and new ideas, and engaging with broader issues of value
Subject Specific Skills	
C1	Ability to produce clear, accurate, artistically coherent and technically sophisticated written work, which articulates a combination of research and creative ideas
C2	Advanced ability to develop the craft of writing to a professional standard
C3	Ability to view themselves as practitioners and reflect critically on their own creative and critical writing practice

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2024\)](#)

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C4	Ability to evidence the critical and creative skills needed to realise an extended creative and critical writing project, taking it from initial idea, through research to writing and editing
Transferable / Key Skills	
D1	Advanced inter-personal and self-reflective skills
D2	Refined ability to articulate own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately and persuasively
D3	Advanced time management and organisational skills, as shown by the ability to plan, present and evaluate creative and critical work effectively
D4	Ability to adapt to different demands and tasks, and be able to look beyond the immediate task to the wider context, including the social and commercial effects of their work

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks / Professional Standards:

- [QAA Characteristics Statement for a Master's degree](#) (February 2020)
- [QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Creative Writing](#) (April 2024)
- [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#) (February 2024).

Course Structure

The MA Creative and Critical Writing comprises modules at level 7.

Module Specifications for each of these modules are included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

	Module	Credits	Module Type ⁷
Level 7			
	Dissertation Project	60	Mandatory
	Creative and Critical Writing Perspectives	30	Requisite
	Writing Ideas and Inspirations	30	Requisite
	Genre Fiction and Research	30	Requisite
	The Writer's Life	30	Requisite

We regularly review our curriculum to ensure it is up-to-date, relevant, draws on the latest research and addresses contemporary issues. As a result, the modules we offer may change

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

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over the course of your degree. Please note that The Writer's Life module may require a DBS check depending on the setting if students choose to complete a writing residency.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded an MA Creative and Critical Writing. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a PgD Creative and Critical Writing on successful completion of 120 credits (excluding the Dissertation Project) or a PgC Creative and Critical Writing on successful completion of 60 credits, including Creative and Critical Writing Workshops.

Course Delivery

The course is delivered at Ipswich. Students studying full-time and part-time on the MA are likely to have approximately six hours of tutor structured learning per week. For part-time students completing the course over 3 years they will complete approximately 60 credits per academic year. For students completing the course over 2 year they will complete approximately 90 credits per academic year. Tutor structured learning will be a mix of workshops, seminars, practical activity and guided learning activities through our online learning environment. Students will normally be expected to undertake 257 hours of independent learning per block and 587 hours for the Dissertation Project. The Writer's Life module may involve students spending a residency in an agreed setting for a pre-agreed duration/sufficient hours to fulfil their project, usually external to the University.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the MA course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects).

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

Course Costs

Students undertaking the MA Creative and Critical Writing will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK	£9,990 per year
Part-time UK	£1,665 per 30 credits
Full-time EU/International	£16,020 per year
Part-time EU/International	£2,670 per 30 credits

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Those students requiring a DBS check for The Writer's Life module will be required to pay for their DBS check and a small ID check and processing fee; additional fees may be incurred upon a student returning from a period of intercalation. The cost of DBS checks can be found on the DBS page of the [University of Suffolk website](#).

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It is recommended that certain essential texts are purchased however some books may be bought second hand so that no module should cost more than £25. For The Writer's Life module, students would need to meet the cost of getting to their residency of choice.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).