A Creative Writing MFA degree builds on the work of a traditional MA but distinguishes itself in a number of ways: it is intensely craft and practice-based; it requires students’ immersion, for a part of their study time, in work environments that offer the opportunity to collaborate with established practitioners; it is firmly based on a model of reflection in practice and on practice; it requires teaching and learning that consistently balance theory and practice through well honed research skills; it aims at enhancing students’ own sense of creativity and professional ambitions in specific artistic fields. For students to achieve an optimum balance between theory, practice and critical reflection, MFAs traditionally last at least two academic years and this is common practice both in the UK and the USA. The MFA in Creative Writing is designed to assist aspiring writers to:

- Hone and develop their writing skills in prose fiction and/or poetry.
- Locate their work in historical and cultural context, and to familiarize themselves with the history of literary production.
- Equip themselves with the research and writing skills they will need to produce both critically informed prose or poetry and creative criticism.
- Reflect productively on both the creative process itself and the finished work that has resulted from it.
- Gain experience, through the Situated Professional Practice module, of the practical skills and creative challenges involved in a specific branch of creative practice (such as poetry, or writing for the stage) and/or of the workings and structure of a creative industry relevant to the student’s own
These educational aims accord neatly with the defining principles of Creative Writing as set out by the QAA’s NAWE Creative Writing Subject Benchmark Statement.

16. Programme learning outcomes – the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

### Knowledge and understanding

**PGCert:**
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the main principles and challenges of Creative Writing
- Distinguish different schools of critical theory and display a firm grasp of literary history
- Recognize the major skills required for critical and theoretical analysis of English Literature

**In addition for the PGDip:**
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the main principles and challenges of Creative Writing
- Distinguish and be able to engage productively with different schools of critical theory – and display a firm and detailed grasp of literary history

**In addition for the MFA:**
- Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the main principles and challenges of creative writing;
- Relate developments in the field of English Literature to the social, political and historical contexts of their own creative work
- Distinguish different approaches to literary production and reflect upon these in their own;
- Develop a critical engagement with various theoretical approaches and methods;
- Recognize the critical language required in advanced literary studies;
- Identify and explain relevant techniques and strategies for producing high-quality creative writing

### Intellectual / cognitive skills

**PGCert:**
- Critically appraise scholarly and professional writing on relevant subjects and texts
- Plan and research a coherent critical argument

**In addition for the PGDip:**
- Critically appraise scholarly and professional writing on relevant subjects and texts – and to be able to contribute fruitfully to the field of study
- Plan and research a coherent critical argument at an advanced level

**In addition for the MFA:**
- Critically appraise both scholarly and creative writing;
- Strategically develop research skills for retrieving information crucial for text production;
- Conduct conceptual and advanced research related to specific creative projects;
- Formulate and address research questions relating to creative and research projects.
Professional practical skills

PGCert:

- Express an argument clearly and coherently on paper, demonstrating extensive research and careful reflection
- Create effective prose and/or poetry – and reflect on the processes of its creation in a productive and critically-informed manner
- Display a high level of attention to detail

In addition for the PGDip:

- Express an argument clearly and coherently on paper, demonstrating extensive research and careful reflection – and significant originality
- Display an appropriately high level of attention to detail in own and others’ writing
- Create advanced and sophisticated prose and/or poetry – and reflect on the processes of its creation in a productive and critically-informed manner

In addition for the MFA:

- Produce high-quality creative work in and analysis of a variety of literary genres;
- Verbally present abstract ideas and concepts in a clear and appropriate fashion;
- Confidently deal with reading complex texts;
- Acquire a sound knowledge of the key debates in literary studies;
- Acquire review/evaluation skills for textual analyses at M-level;
- Combine an understanding of text and context within and between periods.

Key / transferable skills

PGCert:

- Display competence in a range of skills at postgraduate level, including analysis and synthesis of arguments, presentation, and the speedy and efficient processing of complex written information
- Develop knowledge in specialised subject areas and command of terminology;
- Organise, research and deliver a sustained piece of written work to a high academic standard;
- Reflect upon the knowledge gained and incorporate this into independent learning strategies;
- Manage learning self-critically;
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility

In addition for the PGDip:

- Display advanced competence in a range of skills at postgraduate level, including analysis and synthesis of arguments, presentation, and the speedy and efficient processing of complex written information
- Develop heightened knowledge in specialised subject areas and command of terminology;
- Organise, research and deliver a sustained piece of written work to a high academic standard;
- Reflect in a nuanced and productive manner upon the knowledge gained and incorporate this into independent learning strategies;
- Manage learning self-critically;
- Exercise initiative and personal responsibility

In addition for the MFA:
• Display competence in a range of skills at postgraduate level, including creative writing, advanced analysis and synthesis of arguments, presentation, the conducting of independent research, and the efficient processing of complex ideas and arguments;
• Collaborate by working in small groups to exchange ideas and engage in debates;
• Develop knowledge in a specialized subject, area or period and command of terminology
• Organize, research and deliver a sustained piece of work to a high standard;
• Create and carry out a research project of significant complexity;

17. Programme structure – including the route / pathway / field requirements, levels modules, credits, awards and further information on the mode of study.

All programmes operate on a 15 credit modular structure over two semesters. All taught modules are semester based and are worth 15 credits, which is indicative of 150 hours of learning, comprised of student contact, private study and assessment. Project and dissertation modules can be either 15, 30, 45 or 60 credits and, additionally Master’s dissertations 90 credits.

The Situated Professional Practice module allows for skills development, enhancement and critical reflectivity on practice. The Situated Professional Practice modules can be understood either as a form of internship at Surrey (for instance working with either Veer or Contraband books, our two in-house poetry presses) or with a relevant organisation/individual (such as a publishing company or literary agency), or as an intense and focused type of a specific practice (poetry writing, for example).

At the beginning of the MFA programme each student will be assigned a Personal Tutor who will offer guidance on finding or choosing an appropriate form of Situated Professional Practice.

The module tutor for this programme will be responsible for approving placements and ensuring that the potential host (if any) and student understand the nature and goals of the placement, that health and safety conditions are appropriate, and that the appropriate agreement documents have been completed. It is expected that students will spend one day per week ‘on site’ or working primarily on their Situated Professional Practice Project during this placement.

Credits achieved from completing the dissertation / final project module cannot be attributed to a subsidiary award. Students are unable to submit their dissertation until they have successfully completed their taught modules.

This programme is studied full-time over two academic years. In order to achieve the principal award of an MFA a student must complete 240 credits, with a minimum of 210 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6. Students are also eligible to exit the programme with the following subsidiary awards:
• PG Dip – 120 credits with a minimum of 90 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6
• PG Cert – 60 credits with a minimum of 45 credits at FHEQ level 7 and the remainder at FHEQ level 6

Students who wish to leave the MFA and transfer on to a MA must do so by the end of Semester 1 of their first year.

In order for students to progress they must achieve a minimum average of 50%.

Programme adjustments (if applicable)
N/A

FHEQ Level 7: Potential awards – MFA / PG Cert / PG Dip

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module code</th>
<th>Module title</th>
<th>Core / compulsory</th>
<th>Credit volume</th>
<th>Semester (1 / 2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Code</td>
<td>Module Title</td>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM005</td>
<td>Research and Writing Skills I</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM006</td>
<td>Research and Writing Skills II</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM008</td>
<td>Literary Scholarship and Creativity</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM021</td>
<td>Creative Writing Workshop I</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM022</td>
<td>Creative Writing II</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM023</td>
<td>Open Creative Piece I</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM024</td>
<td>Open Creative Piece II</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM028</td>
<td>Realism and Its Critics</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM029</td>
<td>Found Materials</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM033</td>
<td>Situated Professional Placement</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1 or 2 (Year 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM032</td>
<td>Summative Critical Commentary</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2 (Year 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM034</td>
<td>Summative Creative Portfolio</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2 (Year 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIMXXX</td>
<td>Children’s Literature</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIMXXX</td>
<td>Screenwriting</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM011</td>
<td>Special Author II</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM016</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in 19th Century Literature</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAM411</td>
<td>Issue in Literary Translation</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM012</td>
<td>Open Essay I</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM013</td>
<td>Open Essay II</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMCM59</td>
<td>Identity: Marketing and Communications in Practice</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMCM058</td>
<td>Organisations and Written Communication</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM031</td>
<td>Beat Writing</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELIM010</td>
<td>Special Author I</td>
<td>Optional</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How many optional modules must a student choose in order to achieve the necessary amount of credits to achieve this level? Choose 2 of 7 listed optional modules. Where appropriate, students will also be able to choose optional modules (also 15 credits each) from other MA programmes in the School, including English Literature.

18. Opportunities for placements / work-related learning / collaborative activity – please indicate if any of the following apply to your programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opportunity</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associate Tutor(s) / Guest Speakers / Visiting Academics</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Training Year (PTY)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement(s) (study or work that are not part of the PTY or Erasmus Scheme)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Placement(s) (that are not part of the PTY Scheme)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERASMUS Study (that is not taken during Level P)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study exchange(s) (that are not part of the ERASMUS Scheme)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual degree</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19. Quality assurance

The Regulations and Codes of Practice for taught programmes can be found at: http://www.surrey.ac.uk/quality_enhancement/index.htm