

1	Awarding Institution	University of Newcastle upon Tyne
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2	Teaching Institution	as above
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3	Final Award	MA
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4	Programme title	Creative Writing
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5	Programme Accredited by:	N/A
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6	UCAS Code	None
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7	QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)	English
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8	Date of production/revision	13/01/2004
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**9 Programme Aims:**

(a) To produce Masters graduates who have:

- i) advanced their creative ability through practice, discussion and revision
- ii) an advanced awareness of the processes of writing both in their own work and that of others
- iii) a knowledge of a range of contemporary writing in English
- iv) knowledge of the professional world of writing and publishing
- v) an ability to edit and prepare work for submission and publication

(b) To provide a programme:

- i) which has nationally and internationally recognized writers teaching on the course
- ii) in which the practice of writing is combined with directed reading and the opportunity to study contemporary writing
- iii) which draws on the expertise of those engaged in the professional world of publishing and editing
- iv) which attracts a diverse student body, including a significant number of mature students
- v) which establishes connections with the professional world of writing within the region
- vi) which fully meets the requirements of the Master's Degree Quality Assurance Agency National Qualifications Framework

<b>10(a) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:</b>
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**A Knowledge and understanding**

1. Advanced knowledge of the making, editing and critical discussion of texts in various forms and of the relationship between the writer, the text and the reader.
2. Advanced understanding of verbal creativity and the techniques used in the process of editing and presenting their own and other people's writing.
3. Advanced knowledge in the application of the techniques of creative writing and the critical understanding of the writing of others.

**B Subject-specific/professional skills**

1. Conceptual awareness of how texts are made and developed
2. Advanced ability to understand and judge the timing and duration of creative projects.
3. Professional skill in the process of editing their own and other writers' work
4. Practical knowledge and professional skill in the presentation of their own and other people's writing for performance and/or publication.

**C Cognitive skills - Able to:**

1. exercise and develop a sensitivity to verbal creativity
2. practice critical skills in the drafting and revision of writing
3. engage imaginatively and critically in the reading and discussion of texts
4. critically examine the conditions within which contemporary writing is published and distributed

**C Key (transferable) skills - Able to:**

1. understand and put into effect the appropriate presentation of a specific text
2. analyse and evaluate complex evidence critically and imaginatively
3. work and plan independently on large and small projects involving skill and originality
4. write and speak to different audiences
5. adapt swiftly to changing circumstances within a performance situation
6. use information technology (word processing; the internet)
7. gather, evaluate, organise and summarise information
8. work to deadlines or within specified time-limits
9. work effectively in a team and independently

**10(b) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:**

**Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies**

**A Knowledge and Understanding**

Knowledge and understanding is acquired through participation in and preparation for workshops, consultations, seminars, talks, readings and supervision. In workshops this will involve the writing of original texts and their development through a response to the criticism and comments of others; the reading of others' work and

developing knowledge through discussion and criticism of it; the reading and discussion of published and other contemporary work. In consultations the knowledge and understanding will be developed through close scrutiny and discussion on the writer's own work. In seminars the development will primarily be through the study and critical discussion of published texts. Seminars, along with talks, readings and project work will also lead to knowledge and understanding of the professional world of writing, public performance and publishing.

**B Subject-specific professional skills**

Subject-specific professional skills are also acquired through workshop preparation and participation, consultations, seminars, talks and reading. Skills relating to shorter and more various projects will be acquired and developed through these means. The supervised Portfolio or Dissertation will develop skills in working on a larger, more sustained project. Professional skills will also be developed through the preparation of individual readings or performances and work for publication.

**C Cognitive skills**

Cognitive skills are acquired via workshops, tutorials, seminars, talks, readings and supervision. Throughout, but most specifically within the module on 'The Life of Writing', the contributions of professional editors and writers in various forms will develop the student's skills in critically examining the conditions within which contemporary writing is published and distributed.

**D Key (transferable) skills**

Key skills are promoted through workshops, tutorials, seminars and supervisions. Throughout, editing, selecting and presenting material both in written form and orally, to a group and receiving critical feedback will develop these skills both working individually and in a group.

**10(c) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:**

**Assessment Strategy and Methods**

**A Knowledge and understanding**

Assessment of knowledge and understanding is via the submission of files of work produced in workshops; essays or projects on seminar topics; a project on 'The Life of Poetry'; the preparation of a group anthology for 'Research Exercise'; and a final portfolio of poems or literary dissertation.

**B Subject-specific professional skills**

Assessment of subject-specific skills is through preparing and submitting to deadline files of work produced in workshops; essays or projects of 3,000 words on seminar topics; a 3,000 word project for 'The Life of Poetry'; and the preparation of an anthology of the students' work, along with a brief report (1,000 words) of the student's individual part in this, for the 'Research Exercise'; a portfolio of work (a short collection of poems or equivalent in prose or dramatic form) or a dissertation of 15,000 words on a literary topic relating to contemporary or creative writing.

**C Cognitive skills**

Assessment of cognitive skills is via the submission of files, essays or projects, and a portfolio or literary dissertation.

**D Key (transferable) skills**

Assessment of key skills is implicit in course work at all levels.

**11 Programme Curriculum, Structure, and Features:**

The programme is studied over one year full-time or two years part-time. It is divided into study units or modules, which have a value of from 10 to 60 credits. Each 10 credit module represents 100 hours of student learning, and each 20 credit module, 200 hours etc. At least a 'Pass' in the course work is required for progression to the portfolio or dissertation.

	Units of Study		Credits
	Core	Opt	
<b>Stage 1</b>			
Writing Workshop I	Core		30
Writing Workshop II	Core		30
The Life of Poetry	Core		20
Portfolio of Work		Opt	60
Dissertation		Opt	60
Postwar American Poetry		Opt	10
Twentieth Century American Women Poets		Opt	10
Postgraduate Research Training and Anthology Preparation	Core		20

The main body of the course is in four sections, with additional work on Research Training, and a portfolio or dissertation preparation at the end. Full time students take all modules in one year. All students take Workshops 1 and 2 in both of which students develop their writing of poetry and are guided in their reading. They build up a file of poems, reviews of their reading and comment on their own work and progress as a poet. Individual consultations back this work up with one to one discussion of the student's work. All students take the 'Life of Poetry' module which introduces them to the professional world of writing through seminars on publishers and publishing, literary magazines, anthologies, preparing for publication, poetry readings and performance. This part of the course includes contributions from people from the professional world of publishing and is examined by a project prepared by the students.

All students take two modules on aspects of contemporary poetry. All students take Postgraduate Research Training and Anthology Preparation. The training is that given by the Faculty of Arts developing IT skills and library skills. The Anthology Preparation will draw on work done in the Life of Poetry module as each year group of students work together to compile and publish in a short run an anthology of their work produced during the course. Each student finally prepares under supervision, either a portfolio of their own work for submission or a dissertation on some aspect of contemporary writing or creative writing.

## **12 Criteria for Admission:**

Entry will normally be through a good second class degree in a relevant subject: applicants who do not have such a degree may submit a small file of creative writing for consideration with a view to being granted a concession to enter the course.

Overseas students whose first language is not English are also asked to take an English language test conducted by the University Language Centre. We ask for a minimum IELTS score of 6.5

### **Arrangements for non-standard entrants**

Candidates without a degree may submit a file of poems for consideration with a view to being granted a concession to enter the course.

### **Any Additional Requirements**

None

## **13 Support for Students and their Learning:**

### **Induction**

- Faculty induction into Research Training
- Faculty introduction to use of IT
- Faculty introduction to the Library
- Degree Briefing Meeting
- Degree Handbook for this MA
- School postgraduate handbook

### **Study skills support**

- Student e-mail, and open access to all staff, including the DPD
- Access to IT Network
- Postgraduate Common Room

### **Academic support**

- Workshops provide a continuous small group feedback to the student
- Consultation back up to the workshops is given

Seminar and Module leader advice on essay or project selection and preparation

Individual supervision for portfolio or thesis preparation  
Module Outline Forms

School of English postgraduate Staff/Student Committee with representation at Boards of Study

### **Pastoral support**

- Open access to Degree Programme Director
- Personal Tutors who advise on pastoral issues
- Weekly access to workshop or seminar leaders

### **Support for Special Needs**

Access to Learning Support Services/Disability Unit

**Learning resources**

Extensive Library (Robinson Library; Dept. Library)  
Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society Library  
Durham and Northumbria University Libraries  
Northern Poetry Library, Morpeth  
Barry MacSweeney Archive  
Catherine Cookson Archive  
Access to the Northern Arts Literary fellow

**14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning:**

**Module reviews**

Module Appraisal  
General issues raised at Board of Studies  
Bi-annual Staff Appraisal  
Peer Teaching Observation

**Programme reviews**

Stage Appraisal  
General Issues raised at Board of Studies  
Regular Departmental meetings to review teaching and plan ahead

**External examiner reports**

Board of Studies, reserved business  
Faculty Teaching Committee

**Student evaluations**

Seen by module and degree programme directors

**Feedback Mechanisms**

Postgraduate Staff/Student Committee  
Board of Studies  
Board of Examiners  
Departmental Teaching Committee

**Faculty and University Review Mechanisms**

Faculty Teaching Committee  
University Teaching Committee

**15 Regulation of Assessment**

**Pass Mark for Diploma**

40%

**Pass Mark for MA**

50%

**Course Requirements**

To qualify for the Master's Degree students must complete all course requirements And must pass all modules. To qualify for the Diploma students must complete all taught modules.

**Common Marking Scheme**

40%-49% Diploma

50%-59% Pass

60%-69% Merit

70%-100% Distinction

**Role of the External Examiner**

To read all dissertations

To read all scripts where internal markers disagree or have a query

To read all relevant scripts where a candidate's run off marks place it just below a threshold for a particular category of degree

To attend the Board of Examiners in November

To report on the examination procedure

To report on the standards of the degree programme

**16 Indicators of Quality and Standards:****Professional Accreditation Reports**

N/A

**Internal Review Reports**

N/A

**Previous QAA Reports**

In the 1995 TQA the teaching on the Department's Literature degrees was deemed excellent

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. The accuracy of the information contained is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

In addition, information relating to the course is provided in:

The University Postgraduate Prospectus

The School Prospectus

The University and Degree Programme Regulations

The Degree Programme Handbook

QAA Subject Review Report