

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF ARTS

Master of Fine Arts in the field of Creative Writing in English

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

(Applicable to students admitted in the academic year 2024-25 and thereafter)

The Master of Fine Arts in the field of Creative Writing in English (MFA) programme in the Faculty of Arts offers students flexibility of contemporary voice in multilingual contexts through intense studies, including macro and micro foundations. Workshops, seminars, and experiential learning for the MFA programme are centered at the HKU Black Box throughout the year. A unique and customized combination of coursework, studios, and advising provides each student opportunities to explore not only creative writing but creative communications and experimental design practices, in keeping with 21st century multimedia impact of the “built environment” for global audiences. By the end of the study, students will acquire lifelong practices and mastery and develop an original Creative Thesis drafted and revised for potential publication. The programme consists of one compulsory 6-credit course, five compulsory 9-credit courses, and an 18-credit Capstone Experience. The programme has a total study load of 1,380 hours, of which 409 are contact hours.

1. Compulsory Courses (one 6-credit course and five 9-credit courses)

These courses cover historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing in the context of creative design and communications, with a special focus on the emerging multilingual and global writer. At the same time, the foundational macro and micro courses will introduce integrated practices and strategies with fellow writers and artists in the programme and around the world. Students study readings and research, along with design and craft in the growing academic field of creativity, including creative perspective, creative communications, and the history of creativity and happiness. Further, students will learn to navigate both small and large junctures of revision and editing toward a major work of original writing in the Creative Thesis. In lectures, seminars and workshops, students will study the discipline of creative impact in narrative construction, multilingual built environments and genre: including a developing project in multilingual text, rooted histories of intercultural creative perspective and communications. Topics may include: creative nonfiction and the essay, short and long form fiction, lyric and screenplay, object and multimedia narratives and life stories.

A total of 120 hours of student learning activity (including 40 contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course. Students must complete 180 hours of student learning activity (including 60 contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for 9-credit courses.

Assessment for Compulsory Courses is by 100% coursework that may take the form of reading and writing practices, written assignments, excerpts, craft reviews, and response papers with a total output of approximately 3,750 words (6-credit courses) and 5,000 words (9-credit courses).

“ENGL7514.The History of Practice” (9 credits) is graded on a distinction/pass/fail basis.

2. Capstone Experience: The Classic and Experimental Writers' Workshop and Advising (one 18-credit course)

Each individual Creative Thesis, initiated in the first semester of full-time study and completed during the second semester of full-time study, provides a writer with an opportunity to develop an original body of creative writing in a field of interest under creative workshops and supervision by acquiring the essential skills, research and craft. Students are expected to spend much of their time on independent research and writing toward the original body of work.

Students must complete 360 hours of student learning activity (including 95 contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for the 18-credit course.

Assessment is by 100% coursework including an original Creative Thesis of a minimum of 16,000 words.