

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 2025-26 and thereafter)

The Master of Fine Arts in the field of Creative Writing in English (MFA) programme in the Faculty of Arts offers students the flexibility to develop a contemporary voice in multilingual contexts through intense studies. Workshops, seminars, and experiential learning for the MFA programme are held at the Black Box Studio and other creative and teaching venues throughout the year. A unique and customized combination of coursework, studios, and advising provides each student opportunities to explore creative writing alongside other creative practices, in keeping with 21st century impact of cross-genre, cross-cultural, and translingual creativity for global audiences. By the end of the study, students will acquire lifelong practices and mastery and develop an original Creative Dissertation drafted and revised for potential publication. The programme consists of 60 credits, including two compulsory 6-credit courses, two compulsory 9-credit courses, three elective 6-credit courses, and a 12-credit Capstone Experience. The programme has a total study load of 1,200 hours, of which 420 are contact hours.

1. Compulsory Courses (two 6-credit courses and two 9-credit courses)

These courses cover historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing, with a special focus on how creativity transcends boundaries between genres, cultures, and languages. At the same time, the global and creative writing foundation courses introduce integrated practices and strategies, allowing writers and artists to engage with peers from diverse backgrounds and around the world. Students will study readings and research, along with design and craft in the growing academic field of creativity. 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 Dissertation. In lectures, seminars, and workshops, students will study the distinctions and commonalities between poetry and prose, fiction and nonfiction, and other genres and mediums across the broad spectrum of the creative arts.

A total of 120 hours of student learning activity (including 48 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 creative writing assignments, craft analyses, and response papers with a total output of approximately 3,000 words (6-credit courses) and 5,000 words (9-credit courses).

2. Elective Courses (three 6-credit courses)

These elective courses build upon the global and creative foundation courses to explore a diverse range of disciplines within and beyond the realm of creative writing. Students choose from a list of creative writing and communications electives, which are offered based on the expertise of the teaching team and in response to the ever-evolving landscape of creative arts and practices. By completing the elective courses, students focus on developing their skills in specific genres, media, and topics relevant to their creative aspirations and career goals, while

also exploring the diversity and liminality within the creative arts through a variety of course examples. With a solid understanding of fundamental knowledge and honed writing craft, students will identify their niche and preferred forms and styles through writing and experimentation in the elective courses.

“ENGL7514. Internship: The History of Practice” (6 credits) is graded on a distinction/pass/fail basis and will involve an internship with an industry partner where students will acquire work experience and be required to reflect on the broader history of the profession and their place within it.

A total of 120 hours of student learning activity (including a minimum of 40-48 contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) is the norm for a 6-credit course.

Assessment for Elective Courses is by 100% coursework that may take the form of creative writing assignments, craft analyses, response papers, and multimedia projects and presentations with a total output of approximately 3,000 words (6-credit courses).

3. Capstone Experience: Creative Dissertation and Showcase (one 12-credit course)

Each individual Creative Dissertation, 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 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. The Creative Showcase provides an additional platform for students to present their individual Creative Dissertations in diverse formats, celebrating a range of voices and styles and fostering engagement and connection among fellow writers and artists.

Students must complete 240 hours of student learning activity (including 60 contact hours and all other forms of student learning activity) for the 12-credit course.

Assessment is by 100% coursework including an original Creative Dissertation of approximately 15,000 words.