

BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing

Programme Specification

Awarding Institution:

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Name of Final Award and Programme Title: BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in English

Diploma of Higher Education in English

Duration of Programme: 3 years full-time or 4-6 years part-time

UCAS Code(s): Q300

HECoS Code(s): (100320) English Studies

QAA Benchmark Group: English

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 6

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: May 2024

Home Department: English and Creative Writing

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Not applicable

Programme overview

This prestigious degree programme promotes your intellectual curiosity and creativity by combining the study of English literature with the practice of creative writing. It will develop your analytical and critical abilities as well as your imaginative skills. You will study compulsory and option modules from a wide range offered, while each year taking a creative writing module. These creative writing workshops specialise in prose fiction or poetry and are designed to develop your knowledge while laying the foundations of your writing practice. Taught by practitioners and active researchers, you will have access to experts and interact with a community of writers who will support the development of your work.

Our programme offers a challenging, flexible scheme of study invigorated by current research and creative practice, which advances your powers of engagement with literatures in English and develops your abilities as a creative writer. Our programme gives you the opportunity to acquire the critical and verbal skills needed for a confident, effective reading

of literary and non-literary texts. It refines your core skills in analytical and imaginative reading and writing, and it also allows you to develop skills in creative writing and the study of language which further enhance your understanding of creative processes and the formation of meaning. Many modules will encourage you to explore the intersection of creative and critical approaches to literary studies.

Compulsory modules in English and literary study focus on historical and contemporary literatures, combining canonical and non-canonical writings. Other, more specialised options typically explore thematic or genre-based approaches to literature, or literature from particular contexts or communities (for example, Black British Literature, or Contemporary Indigenous Literatures and Cultures). Our flexible programme integrates the new Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum, and you take the modules Ideas in Practice and Creative-Critical Project in your first year and the Goldsmiths Elective, Communicating the Climate Crisis, (or another Goldsmiths Elective) and either the Goldsmiths Project or the Work Placement module in your second year.

Programme entry requirements

The typical GCE A-level offer is BBB (or equivalent points score). Grade B in A-level English Literature (or English Language and Literature or English Language) required; A-level General Studies is not accepted.

Qualifications considered equivalent to GCE A-level BBB:

BTEC: DDM

IB: 33 points, HL655

Access: 60 credits overall with 30 distinctions and distinctions/merits in related subject.

Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

1. Promote independent critical and evaluative skills, creative abilities, and intellectual curiosity
2. Expand your knowledge and understanding of cultural, historical and regional evolutions or continuities of literatures in English
3. Foster your awareness of a range of differing contextual approaches to the study of literature
4. Develop your understanding of the diverse and sometimes conflicting ways in which literary texts have been interpreted and are being reinterpreted

5. Promote your analytical, creative and imaginative engagement with the complexities of literary and non-literary discourses
6. Develop your imaginative and technical skills in creative writing
7. Stimulate your appreciation of genre and literary forms and conventions, and your ability to engage with them creatively
8. Promote the interaction between the study and practice of creative writing
9. Encourage yourself-development into a professionally organised and interactive individual by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication in both written and oral domains
10. Facilitate a learning environment in which creative writing can be engaged with both rigorously and supportively, which promotes continuing enthusiasm for the subject, and which offers an appropriate foundation for further study in literature written in English and in related disciplines

What you will be expected to achieve

By the end of the programme you should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	A range of writings in English from different periods, including some from before 1800	All modules (Explorations in Literature, and to a lesser extent, Genre, Reading the Past and Shapeare(s): Then and Now encompass pre-1800 literature)
A2	Writings expressive of diverse regional, cultural, social and national backgrounds	All modules. Strong emphasis on diversity in choice of core primary texts for Approaches to Text, and Explorations in Literature Specific coverage in Black British Literature; Caribbean Women Writers; and Contemporary Indigenous Literatures and Cultures
A3	The importance of historical and cultural contexts of literary texts	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A4	Genres and their conventions and diversity	All modules
A5	Methods, concepts and appropriate terminologies in literary study	Covered explicitly by Approaches to Text and developed across literature and creative writing modules
A6	Traditional and contemporary debates in both English studies and creative writing	All modules
A7	Structural, rhetorical and linguistic strategies in literature	All modules
A8	The part that literature and language play in cultural change or stasis	All modules
A9	Technical, imaginative and editorial skills in the production and development of creative writing	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
A10	Examining your own creative work critically and with rigour	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
A11	Situating your own work within a wider literary context	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Conduct textual or linguistic analysis informed by introductory methodological and theoretical reflection	All modules
B2	Analyse some central characteristics and powers of creative language	All modules
B3	Recognise and critically explore alternative views	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B4	Articulate interpretations and arguments backed up with textual analyses	All modules
B5	Explore complex or unfamiliar modes of expression and/or narrative in the light of introductory guidance	All modules
B6	Formulate your own creative aims, devise how to carry them through, and assess the extent to which you have achieved them	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
B7	Reflect on the aims and structure of your own creative pieces in relation to the process of writing	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Perceive interactions between process of writing, its cultural context, and reception in the creation of textual meanings	All modules
C2	Use close reading to produce independent interpretations and to engage imaginatively and creatively with literary texts	All modules
C3	Recognise and discuss the role of generic conventions in literary texts, and take them into account in your own creative practice	All modules
C4	Use a range of critical theories and approaches discriminately to read others' and your own literary work	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
C5	Produce your own written work to adequate professional standards in design, organisation, relevance, expression, referencing, and bibliography	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C6	Produce original creative work that develops your distinctive vision or voice	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
C7	Research literary topics using data resources and collecting and sifting primary and secondary evidence	All modules
C8	Understand and apply terminology appropriate to English Studies (and the practice of Creative Writing)	All modules (re creative writing: specifically Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development)
C9	Design and execute an independent creative writing project	Project Development
C10	Edit and develop reworked pieces of creative writing in the light of feedback from tutors and peers	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
C11	Contribute constructively to seminar discussion on issues arising from published texts or the process of writing	All modules

Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Display enhanced creative, communication and discussion skills, in written and oral contexts	All modules
D2	Demonstrate facility in accessing verbal data using hard copy I electronic resources	All modules
D3	Capacity to handle ideas in rational, critical, creative and evaluative ways	All modules
D4	Open-mindedness and capacity for independent judgement	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D5	Demonstrate management of your own learning, including working effectively to deadlines	All modules
D6	Demonstrate application of skills of close analysis to a variety of texts and contexts	All modules
D7	Power to organise information, and to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments	All modules
D8	Ability to adapt content to context, and to understand the power of different forms of expression	All modules
D9	Ability to think and express yourself originally and distinctively	Foundation Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Project Development
D10	Ability to make positive contributions to groups, and perception of group dynamics	All modules
D11	Understanding of project-based learning and skills in problem-solving and in applying theoretical ideas and concepts to real-world problems	Creative-Critical Project; Goldsmiths Project or Work Placement; Project Development

Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	Exceptional grasp of all the issues raised by the question, but also a truly original, creative approach to the question, challenging current scholarship. Demonstrates full independence of thought, exceptional powers of analysis and synthesis and exceptional insights into primary texts and critical contexts. Communicated with intellectual brilliance in a superbly structured piece of work to an exceptional, professional standard of execution, displaying evidence of an exceptional application of knowledge, understanding and skills detailed in module and programme outcomes. Creative writing work must demonstrate genuine originality in relation to its genre, and show exceptional technical skill in its execution, including the development of innovative formal approaches.
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	Mature and full grasp of issues raised by the question, communicated fluently within a structured essay demonstrating analytical rigour and an element of independent thought and reaching cogent conclusions; supported by detailed insight into primary texts and (where appropriate) into context and/or secondary criticism; a professional standard of execution. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a distinguished level. Creative writing work must demonstrate excellent technical skill, and must constitute an original approach to genre and form.
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	Lucid and analytical discussion showing clear understanding of some of the issues raised by the question, and making aptly selective use of module text(s) and concerns in a firmly structured way to reach well substantiated conclusions. Well articulated and presented to a good standard of professionalism. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a very good level. Creative writing work must demonstrate a very good level of technical skill, and should constitute an original of approach to genre or form.

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	Recognition of some significant implications in the question, and an ability to ground discussion and conclusions in a satisfactory range of primary and (where appropriate) secondary reading; evidence of some facility in professional modes of structure, expression and presentation. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a good level. Creative writing work must demonstrate a good level of technical skill, and show some originality of approach to genre and form.
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	A limited attempt to answer the question, demonstrating a basic familiarity with module text(s) and/or issues; adequate competence in organisation and expression. A mark in this range represents the overall achievement of the module and programme learning outcomes to a satisfactory level. Creative writing work must demonstrate a satisfactory level of technical skill, and demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of genre and form.
25-39%	Fail	An essay may fail on grounds of inadequate relevance to the question; lack of evidence of your having studied the work set for the module; incoherent expression and argument; learning outcomes insufficiently demonstrated.
10-24%	Bad fail	A submission that shows a significant overall failure to achieve the appropriate learning outcomes. Written work shows no evidence of an attempt to address the question.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non-valid attempt and unit must be re-sat).
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

How the programme is structured

The programme is available in full-time (3 years) and part-time (6 years) modes. Direct entry is possible at levels 5 & 6 for suitably qualified applicants.

All students take modules worth 120 credits at each level. You are required to have passed modules to a minimum of 90 credits at each level before proceeding. Level-4 literature modules, Explorations in Literature, and Genre, which are both compulsory, form a foundation in your first year of study. These modules will introduce you to a wide range of

canonical and non-canonical literature as well as foregrounding a diversity of genres and cultural and historical contexts. The Level-4 creative writing module, Foundation Workshop, is a compulsory module and must be passed before progression to Level 5. The Connected Curriculum modules, Ideas in Practice and the Creative-Critical Project are shared with the department of Theatre and Performance.

Subsequent modules are designated specifically as being at either Level 5 or Level 6, and are taken by full-time students in the second and third years respectively. The Level 5 Creative Writing Workshop and Level 6 Project Development are compulsory modules at these levels, and must also be passed before progression. For your other compulsory modules at these levels, you choose between Reading the Past and The Long Nineteenth Century at Level 5, and between Challenging World Literatures: Diversity and Difference and Modern and Contemporary Literatures at Level 6. In line with national benchmarks for the subject, you should take at least one module at Level 5 which encompasses pre-1800 texts (see modules marked * in the table below). All the Department's modules are informed to a greater or lesser extent by the research interests of staff. Creative writing modules are taught by experienced practitioners.

Level 4:

The following first year modules are compulsory for this programme:

Explorations in Literature (30 credits); Genre (30cr); Foundation Workshop (30 credits); Ideas in Practice (15cr); Creative-Critical Project (15cr).

Minimum of 90 credits to be passed.

Level 5:

For the level 5 Creative Writing Workshop (30 credits) you will focus on both prose and poetry genres in Autumn term before being allocated to specialist workshops in your chosen genre for the Spring Term. For compulsory module, you choose between Reading the Past (30 credits)* and The Long 19th Century (30 credits). You also take the Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum module Communicating the Climate Crisis (15 credits), or another Goldsmiths Elective, and either the Goldsmiths Project or the Work Placement module (15 credits). A further two modules are chosen from a range characterised by wide literary, historical and contextual scope. The list of Level-5 option modules is below. (NB: In any given year some modules may be temporarily suspended owing to staffing changes/sabbatical leave.) Open faculty modules are available to all students in the Faculty of Creative Arts and Media.

- Homer and Contemporary Literature (15 credits)
- Shakespeare(s): Then and Now (15 credits)*
- Staging Women's Voices: Feminism and Writing (15 credits)
- Poetry since 1945 (15 credits)
- American Gothic (15 credits)
- Language and Society (15 credits)
- Aesthetics (open faculty, 15 credits)
- Black British Literature (open faculty, 15 credits)

Minimum of 90 credits to be passed.

Level 6:

Your creative writing module at level 6 is the Project Development module (30 credits). You will attend weekly workshops in Autumn Term, which are developmental and generative in nature. In the Spring Term the module is taught via tutorial sessions to guide the production of your final portfolio of c.10-12,000 words inclusive of critical commentary or a project of equivalent size in poetry or other genres.

For another compulsory module, you choose between Challenging World Literature: Diversity and Difference (30 credits) and Modern and Contemporary Literatures (30 credits). A further four modules are chosen from a range characterised by deep study of genres, cultures and identities. The list of level 6 modules are below. (NB: In any given year some modules may be temporarily suspended owing to staffing changes/sabbatical leave.) Open faculty modules are available to all students in the Faculty of Creative Arts and Media.

- Decadence (15 credits)
- Writing Lives (15 credits)
- Contemporary Indigenous Literatures and Cultures (15 credits)
- Shakespeare's Sisters: Contemporary Women's Writing (15 Credits)
- American Crime Fiction (15 credits)
- Analysing Discourse in Society (15 credits)
- Caribbean Women Writers (open faculty, 15 credits)
- Beckett and Aesthetics (open faculty, 15 credits)
- Language and Gender (open faculty, 15 credits)

All the Department's modules are informed to a greater or lesser extent by the research interests of staff.

Full-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Explorations in Literature	EN51001A	30	4	Compulsory	1,2
Genre	EN51xxxx	30	4	Compulsory	1,2
Foundation Workshop	EN51010A	30	4	Compulsory	1,2
Ideas in Practice	EN51xxxx	15	4	Compulsory	1
Creative-Critical Project	EN51xxxx	15	4	Compulsory	2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Creative Writing Workshop	EN52250A	30	5	Compulsory	1, 2
EITHER Reading the Past OR The Long Nineteenth Century	EN52xxxx	30	5	Compulsory	1, 2
Communicating the Climate Crisis (Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum) or another Goldsmiths Elective	TBC	15	5	Compulsory	TBC
EITHER Goldsmiths Project OR ECW Work Placement module	TBC	15	5	Compulsory	TBC
Two modules to a total value of 30 credits from a list of approved level- 5 modules available annually from the Department of English & Creative Writing	Various	30	5	Optional	1,2

Academic year of study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Project Development	EN53370A	30	6	Compulsory	1,2
EITHER Challenging World Literature: Diversity and Difference OR Modern and Contemporary Literatures	EN53xxxx	30	6	Compulsory	1,20
Four modules to a total value of 60 credits from a list of approved level- 6 modules available annually from the Department of English & Creative Writing	Various	60	6	Optional	1,2

Part-time mode

Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Explorations in Literature	EN51001A	30	4	Compulsory	1,2
Foundation Workshop	EN51010A	30	4	Compulsory	1,2

Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Genre	EN51xxxx	30	4	Compulsory	1,2
Ideas in Practice	EN51xxxx	15	4	Compulsory	1
Creative-Critical Project	EN51xxxx	15	4	Compulsory	2

Academic year of study 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Creative Writing Workshop	EN52250A	30	5	Compulsory	1, 2
EITHER Reading the Past OR The Long Nineteenth Century	TBC	30	5	Compulsory	1,2

Academic year of study 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
EITHER Communicating the Climate Crisis (Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum) OR another Goldsmiths Elective	TBC	15	5	Compulsory	TBC
EITHER Goldsmiths Project OR Work Placement Module	TBC	15	5	Compulsory	TBC
Modules to a total value of 30 credits from a list of approved level- 5 modules available annually from the Department of English & Creative Writing.	Various	30	5	Optional	1,2

Academic year of study 5

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Project Development	EN53370A	30	6	Compulsory	1,2
EITHER Challenging World Literature OR Modern and Contemporary Literatures	TBC	30	6	Compulsory	1.2

Academic year of study 6

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Modules to a total value of 30 credits from a list of approved level- 6 modules available annually from the Department of English & Creative Writing	Various	60	6	Optional	1,2

Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least three times a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Centre for Academic Language and Literacies](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Employability and potential career opportunities

Although not vocational in the narrow sense of the word, the degree does develop linguistic and critical skills that provide a sound basis for careers in areas including journalism, the media, publishing, the Civil Service, local government, teaching and research, and the commercial world. The programme's emphasis on the development of critical and analytical skills, on achieving proficiency in assessing evidence and in expressing ideas clearly, its commitment to enhancing the ability to bring together insights from a range of subjects, and providing a thorough education in the reading and comparison of texts from diverse cultures are all attributes that are attractive to prospective employers. Our graduates learn to think critically and creatively, to solve problems, and to communicate with clarity. If you obtain a good degree you may consider postgraduate study – undertaking original research or studying for a professional qualification – at Goldsmiths College or elsewhere. Participation in the Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum through, e.g. the Goldsmiths Project or the Work Placement Module at L5, will enhance your employability by developing your familiarity of a particular working environment. Taking part in the 'Student Showcase' event (which forms part of the L6 Project Development module summative assessment) will develop your

professional public speaking experience and preparation of literary materials for a live performance event in front of an audience.

Most recent statistics regarding our graduates indicate that a significant percentage gain employment or a place on a postgraduate course of study within a few months of leaving the College. Graduates have also enjoyed significant success in publishing their creative work, and winning or being shortlisted for literary prizes and awards.

Goldsmiths also offers a range of opportunities, including Master's and Doctoral programmes, taught diplomas and certificates, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education for prospective teachers.

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: <https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/>

Specific programme costs

Not applicable