The Master of Creative Writing is designed for new, developing and established writers who wish to explore and develop their creative practice in a stimulating academic environment. We welcome students who work in experimental or traditional ways within, across or between genres and media.

As well as core units in the fundamentals of research-led creative practice, critical contexts for creative writing, and Sydney as a cultural centre, we offer a wide range of specialised units, including Introductory and Advanced Workshops in Poetry, Fiction and Non-fiction, Writers at Work units, and Major Movements units.

Throughout their degree, students work in small groups with distinguished staff and visitors to extend and deepen their skills, their thinking, and their engagement with the work of others. As well as coursework, all Masters students undertake a substantial, individually supervised creative project and participate in a lively calendar of readings, talks and symposia.

Writers currently on staff include Judith Beveridge, Fiona McFarlane, Peter Kirkpatrick, Kate Lilley, Peter Minter and Beth Yahp. Visitors to the program in recent years have included Peter Boyle, Pam Brown, Ali Cobby Eckermann, Carla Harryman, Lyn Hejinian, Bob Holman, Gail Jones, Michelle de Kretser, David Malouf, Drusilla Modjeska, Lionel Shriver, Katherine Thompson, John Tranter, Barrett Watten and John Wilkinson.

The Department of English

The Department of English at the University of Sydney is the largest in Australia. In the 2016 QS World University Rankings, the Department was rated the best in New South Wales, and the twentieth best in the world.

Postgraduate coursework students have exclusive access to “The Quarter”, a new space specifically designed to support the teaching, learning and wellbeing needs of postgraduate coursework students.
Creative Writing 2018

This program is offered at Graduate Certificate (0.5 year full-time), Graduate Diploma (1 year full-time) and Master (1.5 years full-time) levels. Part-time study is also available.

A 1 year option for the Master degree is available to applicants with: a Graduate Certificate / Graduate Diploma in the program with minimum credit average; or an Honours degree in a relevant discipline; or relevant professional work experience and bachelor’s degree with a minimum credit average or equivalent qualification.

View the Admission Requirements here:

Graduate Certificate in Creative Writing requires completion of 24 credit points of units of study including:
− a minimum of 12 credit points from core units of study
− a maximum of 12 credit points from elective units of study

Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing requires completion of 48 credit points of units of study including:
− 18 credit points from core units of study
− a maximum of 30 credit points from elective units of study

Master of Creative Writing requires completion of 72 credit points of units of study including:
− a minimum of 18 credit points from core units of study
− a maximum of 42 credit points from elective units of study including at least one Introductory Workshop unit of study, at least one Writers at Work unit of study, and at least one Advanced Workshop unit of study
− a minimum of 12 credit points from capstone units of study

Units of Study

Core units of study
ENGL6913 Critical Contexts for Creative Writing
ENGL6914 Research Methods for Creative Writing
ENGL6917 Literary Culture: Sydney
ENGL6936 Writers at Work
ENGL6937 Literary Movements

Capstone units of study
ENGL6119 Dissertation Part 1: Creative Writing*
ENGL6120 Dissertation Part 2: Creative Writing*
ENGL6908 Creative Writing: Supervised Project*

Introductory Workshop units of study
ENGL6901 Creative Writing: Fiction Workshop
ENGL6902 Creative Writing: Poetry Workshop
ENGL6984 Creative Non-Fiction Workshop

Advanced Workshop units of study
ENGL6986 Advanced Workshop: Poetry
ENGL6987 Advanced Workshop: Novel

Other Elective units of study
ENGL6040 Introduction to Old English
ENGL6041 Old English Texts
ENGL6100 Approaches to Literary History
ENGL6101 Approaches to Genre
ENGL6102 Approaches to Critical Reading
ENGL6103 Approaches to Global English Literatures
ENGL6104 American Gothic
ENGL6106 The Idea of the South
ENGL6107 Sentiment and Sensation
ENGL6108 Modern Australian Poetry and Poetics
ENGL6109 Modern and Contemporary Drama
ENGL6110 The 18th Century Novel: Theory & Example
ENGL6111 History Writing in English, 1500-1900
ENGL6112 Wooing Women in Middle English Romance
ENGL6114 Language and Subject
ENGL6115 Reading Suburbia
ENGL6116 Life and Literature in the Age of Chaucer
ENGL6937 Literary Movements
ENGL6970 Magazines and Australian Print Culture
ENGL6982 Shakespeare and Modernity
ENGL6985 Shakespeare and his Contemporaries
ENGL6991 Australian Literature and the Canonical Imaginary
ENGL6992 Henry James and the Art of Fiction
FASS7001 Academic English for Postgraduates
FASS7002 Academic Literacies for Postgraduates
WRIT6000 Professional Writing
WRIT6001 Professional Editing

* Creative Writing students who wish to enrol in these units require permission from the Degree Coordinator. Dissertation units require the availability of appropriate supervision by academic staff.

Note:
− Each unit of study is worth 6 credit points, except for the Advanced Workshops which are worth 12 credit points, and not every unit is offered every year.
− A full list of 2018 units is available at:

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