

MA Writing for Young People

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Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Writing, Publishing & the Humanities
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	N/A
Other Schools involved in delivery	N/A
Name of award(s)	Master of Arts in Writing for Young People
Qualification (final award)	MA
Intermediate awards available	n/a
Routes available	Single
Duration of award	The course is offered full time , with a normal duration of one year, from the beginning of October to the end of September, and also part-time , with a normal duration of two years.
Sandwich period	No
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based.
Regulatory Scheme ^[1]	Taught Postgraduate Framework
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	N/A
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	N/A
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	N/A

UCAS code	N/A
Route code (SITS)	WYMA
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Please reference the QAA Masters Characteristics statements: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/publications/information-and-guidance/publication?PubID=2977#.VrMk7NKLSUI
Date of most recent approval	March 2016
Date specification last updated	January 2023

Programme Overview

The aim of the course is to help you to develop and continuously review your writing skills, and to enhance your understanding of the practical choices open to you as a writer for young people, and of the professional and cultural contexts in which you write. You will be offered advice on ways to make contact with an audience of young readers, e.g. through schools. We aim to be realistic about the world of contemporary publishing; you will meet editors and literary agents as well as writers and tutors. We also recognise that marketability is not the be-all-and-end-all of writing, and sometimes there might be original, skilled and ambitious work that is difficult to place.

Writing for Young People covers writing from the earliest years to the ‘young adult’ market. Though prose fiction is likely to be the main focus, you will have the chance to experiment, and maybe develop an interest, in non-fiction, poetry and picture books.

The writing workshop – a peer group of writers, led by an experienced tutor, discussing each other’s work-in-progress in a practical, rigorous and supportive way - is at the heart of this course. Your central experience in this year (two years if you are a part-time student) should be one of moving your own writing forward with the support of the group. Building the trust and understandings necessary for this to work at its best is one of our main concerns as tutors. Our experience of the MA in Writing for Young People is that students leave at the end of the course with writing contacts, friendships and networks that will last them through the years to come.

Programme Aims

The aims of this course are to

1. Develop writing skills and knowledge in the practice-based discipline of writing for young people. By the end of the course you will have prepared work which provides the basis for an original book length manuscript of creative writing for young people, using the skills of editing and redrafting to bring it to as close to publishable quality as possible.
2. Support the development of writers who understand and accept the practical conditions faced by working writers for young people, and can make realistic choices while holding onto the vision that engenders the writing.
3. Support the development of a wide range of complementary skills, such as verbal communication, an awareness of audience, collaboration as part of team, working independently at a professional level, working to deadlines,

organisational skills and critical thinking, which will further support you as a writer – but also in a wide range of other areas of work, and in different contexts.

4. Support you in reflecting on your own work and on the work of others in order to extend and deepen your understanding of writing for young people as a distinctive and valuable area of professional practice, and to bring criticality, analysis and originality to these processes.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) [↗](#)

(NB These ILOs are at level 7 of the FHEQ)

A Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge

The MA in Writing for Young People at Bath Spa University will deliver these outcomes with reference to the specific field of practice-based research in creative writing for young people. By the end of the course, you will have

- A1. Prepared, to as close to a publishable standard as possible, the basis for a book-length manuscript for young people, or a very substantial part of one, using the skills of editing, redrafting and re-writing.
- A2. Experimented with a variety of forms and/or genres of creative writing for young people, and for different age groups, and demonstrated an ability to make choices between them. You will have demonstrated skills to Masters level in at least one area of specialism in creative writing for young people.
- A3. Commented critically and analytically on your own and others' writing in essays, articles and written commentaries.
- A4. Demonstrated an understanding of current themes, issues and ethical considerations in the field of writing for young people, in relation to your own practice as a creative writer for young people.
- A5. Demonstrated your understanding of the contemporary children's publishing industry and the professional demands on a working writer for young people.
- A6. Demonstrated your awareness of local technical/craft points in your writing and larger strategic questions about it, including your awareness of the audiences for whom you are writing.

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

- B1. A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of professional practice in creative writing for young people.
- B2. Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline of creative writing for young people;
- B3. Conceptual understanding that enables you:
 - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and
 - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.
 - deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- B4. Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level;

C Skills for Life and Work

On achieving Level 7 you will be able to:

C1. **Work Independently** - Act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks in a professional context.

C2. **Work with Others** - Plan for and actively engage in inclusive collaboration with others to tackle and solve complex problems and develop original insights.

C3. **Communicate with Impact** - Communicate complex ideas clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.

C4. **Demonstrate Digital Fluency** - Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication in a professional context.

Intermediate Awards [↗](#)

PgCert Intended Learning Outcomes

A3,4 6

B1-3

C2-4

P gDip Intended Learning Outcomes

A3- 6

B1-3

C2-4

Programme content [↗](#)

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Compulsory = R (ie 'required')

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as single programme

MA Writing for Young People				Status	
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint
7	CW7048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn	30	C	N/A
7	CW7041-30	Context Module One: Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages	30	C	N/A
7	CW7049-30	Writing Workshop Spring	30	C	N/A

7	CW7043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	30	C	N/A
7	CW7045-60	The Manuscript	60	C	N/A

Assessment methods [↗](#)

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Additional Costs Table [↗](#)

There are no additional costs associated with this course.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes [↗](#)

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	Engaging in supportive peer workshopping to develop my ability to critically reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of my work and my peers', alongside tasks that encourage me to experiment and take risks as part of the learning process.

Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	On-going group-work focused on enhancing my written and verbal communication skills, extending my ability to sensitively and constructively respond to others' work and to feedback on my own, while building mutually supportive creative practices and networks.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	independent and collaborative problem-solving in pursuing assigned tasks and self-starting projects, as well as respectful and inclusive discussion of key industry debates, including about diversity and difference, with a focus on applying learnings to my writing and my broader role as a professional in the field of writing for young people.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	Prompted and self-starting projects that require innovation and adaptability to solve creative problems and meet team challenges with the resilience and confidence needed to thrive in an unpredictable industry.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	Exposure to new knowledge, creative and critical practices, and a wide range of perspectives, fostering my ability to combine analytical skills with curiosity and imagination as a foundation for lifelong learning.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	Undertaking a wide range of assessment tasks, weekly preparation for classes, and longer, multi-stage projects requiring the ability to think beyond present challenges to anticipate future possibilities and identify possible pathways to success so I can strategically plan how to achieve my creative and professional goals.

Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	engaging in nuanced examination of and reflection on a variety of social and ethical issues, with a focus on the responsibilities of writing for children and young people, including honing my professional values while exploring - and considering my position in relation to - core industry debates, bringing empathy and ethics into my decision-making in both my creative work and my approach to engaging with the industry.
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	engaging in a range of authentic tasks requiring me to be a proactive self-starter and creative problem-solver able to help my peers enhance their work, use their input to improve my own, learn the skills to produce and polish a long-form project, and extend my ability to engage effectively with industry.
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	Supporting my ability to critically reflect on a range of feedback then make confident, autonomous decisions about my work so that I can adapt resiliently and positively to meet creative and professional challenges with a growth mindset.
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	engaging in authentic creative and professionally-oriented tasks to develop and practise the range of digital skills expected of writers, including the confidence to embrace new resources and problem-solve technical challenges.

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
CW7040-30	Writing Workshop 1: Writing for Young People	Assessment change and module coordinator update	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7044-60	The Manuscript	Assessment change and module coordinator update	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7040-30	Writing Workshop 1: Writing for Young People	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7042-30	Writing Workshop 2: Writing for Young People	Assessment change - word count and weighting	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
CW7043-30	Writing for Young People: Contemporary Children's Publishing	Module amendments sections 15,18,19,21	approved by the Creative Industries SQMC 30th November 2020	2021/22
All modules		Updated to align with assessment policy,	Education committee June 2021	2021/22
CW7045-60	The Manuscript (CW7044-60 for 2nd year PT students only in 21/22)	Updated Module - amended assessment	approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
CW7043-30	Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing	updated Class Contact time and Independent Study	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW7040-30	Writing Workshop 1	Deleted module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW7042-30	Writing Workshop 2	Deleted module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW7048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn	New module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23

CW7049-30	Writing Workshop Spring	New module	approved by Writing, Publishing and Humanities SQMC 7th March 2022	2022/23
CW7049	Writing Workshop Spring	Assessment Modification - change to word count	Exceptional modifications - 26/05/22	2022/23
CW7048-30 CW7049-30 CW7043-30 CW7041-30 CW7045-60	Writing Workshop Autumn Writing Workshop Spring Writing for Young People - Contemporary Children's Publishing Context Module One - Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages The Manuscript	Changes to contact hours, module co- ordinator and prep work.	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
CW7044-60	The Manuscript	Module deleted	Approved at the School of Writing, Publishing and the Humanities SQMC, 23 November 2022	2022/23
CW7048-30 CW7041-30 CW7049-30	Writing Workshop Autumn Context Module One - Writing for Young People: Forms, Ages and Stages Writing Workshop Spring	Updates to description and aims, outline syllabus, teaching and learning activities, ILOs and formative assessment	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2024	2025/26
CW7043-30	Writing for Young People - Contemporary Children's Publishing	Updates to the outline syllabus, teaching and learning activities, ILOs, formative and summative assessments	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2024	2025/26
CW7045-60	The Manuscript	Updates to teaching and learning activities, ILOs, and formative assessments	Curriculum Approval Panel, December 2024	2025/26

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme Structure Diagram
2. Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagram [↗](#)

Full time over one year
Trimester One: CW7048-30 Writing Workshop Autumn CW7041-30 Context Module One: Forms, Ages & Stages
Trimester Two: CW7049-30 Writing Workshop Spring CW7043-30 Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing
Trimester Three: CW7045-60 The Manuscript

Part-time over two years
<i>Year One</i>
Trimester One: CW7041-30 Context Module One: Forms, Ages & Stages
Trimester Two: CW7049-30 Writing Workshop Spring
Trimester Three: Begin work towards The Manuscript

<i>Year Two</i>
Trimester One: CW7048-30 Writing Workshop Autumn
Trimester Two: CW7043-30 Context Module Two: Contemporary Children's Publishing
Trimester Three: CW7045-60 The Manuscript

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) against modules [↗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O) [1]	Intended Learning Outcomes													
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
7	CW7048-30	Writing Workshop Autumn: Writing for Young People	C		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X

7	CW 704 1-30	Con text Mod ule One : Writ ing for You ng Peo ple: For ms, Age s and Stag es	C		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X	
7	CW 704 9-30	Writ ing Wor ksh op Spr ing: Writ ing for You ng Peo ple	C		X	X	X		X		X	X			X	X	X	X
7	CW 704 3-30	Writ ing for You ng Peo ple: Con tem pora ry Chil dren 's Publ ishi ng	C		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	

7	CW 704 5-60	The Man uscr ipt	C	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
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Appendix 3: Map of summative assessment tasks by module [↗](#)

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,O)	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Man uscr ipt	Diss erta tion	Essa y	Jour nal	Port folio	Wor k in Proc ess	Perf orm anc e	Prac tical Proj ect	Prac tical skill s	Pres enta tion	Set exer cise s	Writ ten Exa min ation	In- clas s test (see n)	In- clas s test (uns een)
7	CW 704 8-30	Writ ing Wor ksh op Aut umn : Writ ing for You ng Peo ple	C					1x 250 0 wor ds and 1x 500 wor ds	1x 450 0 wor ds and 1x 500 wor ds								

7	CW 704 1-30	Con text Mod ule One : Writ ing for You ng Peo ple: For ms, Age s and Stag es	C			1x 4,00 0 wor ds		1x 4,00 0 wor ds									
7	CW 704 9-30	Writ ing Wor ksh op Spr ing: Writ ing for You ng Peo ple	C					1x 250 0 wor ds and 1x 500 wor ds	1x 450 0 wor ds and 1x 500 wor ds								
7	CW 704 3-30	Writ ing for You ng Peo ple: Con tem pora ry Chil dren 's Publ ishi ng	C					1x 2,00 0 wor ds		1x 6,00 0 wor ds							

7	CW 704 5-60	The Man uscr ipt	C	1 x 16,0 00 -20, 000 wor ds														
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