

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

(See also General Regulations)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

The degree of Master of Fine Arts is a postgraduate degree awarded for the satisfactory completion of a prescribed course of study in Creative Writing in English.

MFA 1 Admission requirements

- (a) To be eligible for admission to studies leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts, a candidate shall:
 - (i) comply with the General Regulations;¹
 - (ii) hold a good Bachelor's degree from this University; or another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another University or comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (iii) satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination, if required.
- (b) For the Master of Fine Arts programme in Creative Writing in English, a candidate shall also possess prior experience of creative writing in English in order to be eligible for admission; and a candidate who does not hold a good Bachelor's degree from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register for the degree on submitting an outstanding writing sample upon application or evidence of experience as a professional writer with good publication records, and satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination.

MFA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's formal academic ability or his/her ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
- (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register unless he/she has satisfied the examiners in the examination.

MFA 3 Award of degree

To be eligible for the award of Master of Fine Arts, a candidate shall:

- (a) comply with the General Regulations; and
- (b) complete the curriculum and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

¹ In addition to the TOEFL requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL.

MFA 4 Length of curriculum

The curriculum shall normally be completed within two academic years of part-time study with a minimum of 300 hours of prescribed work.

MFA 5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, a candidate shall:

- (a) follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed work; and
- (b) satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of examination.

The examiners may also prescribe a written examination for replacement of failed credits.

MFA 6 Assessment

- (a) A candidate's performance during the study may be assessed through written assignments as prescribed by the courses on a distinction/pass/fail basis.
 - (b) A candidate must pass all year-one courses in order to proceed to year two of the Master of Fine Arts programme.
 - (c) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than 3 credits in an academic year may be permitted to re-submit his/her work for the failed course(s) for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners.
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MFA 7 Discontinuation

A candidate who

- (a) is not permitted to present himself/herself for re-examination or resubmission of coursework under consultation in any course in which he/she has failed to satisfy the examiners;
- (b) has failed to satisfy the examiners in a second attempt in any course; or
- (c) has failed more than 3 credits in an academic year

shall be recommended for discontinuation under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

MFA 8 Assessment results

A pass list shall be published in alphabetical order after completion of the programme requirements. A candidate who has shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction and this mark will be recorded in the candidate's degree diploma.

SYLLABUS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF FINE ARTS

CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH

The Master of Fine Arts programme in Creative Writing in English is offered part-time over two years. Students are required to complete a total of 30 credits. The programme consists of Sessions 1-4, Retreats 1-4, Independent Study I and Independent Study II.

Students are required to pass all Sessions, Retreats, Independent Study I and Independent Study II and must present a Final Portfolio of original creative writing upon completion of the course "Independent Study II", preferably suitable for outside publication as an original creative piece.

(Ia) Sessions: Total of 4 Sessions for 12 Credits over Two Years

Each Session of 3 credits meets every other week for 2 hours over one semester.

- Session 1 **ENGL6100 Genre**
- This session explores both fundamental and advanced work in development of structure and expectation in creative writing. This session provides the framework for making decisions of genre, development of genre, and revision of genre. Diction across genre, and specific to genre, will be studied. Students will practice mapping their work, raising expectations, and making models for a completed work.
Assessment: 100% Coursework
- Session 2 **ENGL6101 Drafting and Revision**
- In this session, students will study how to identify diction and location for revision in creative writing, including the impact of filters, sequences, speed, and melodrama. Each student will be assigned to bring back a report from a field trip to include in an edited piece of creative writing.
Assessment: 100% Coursework
- Session 3 **ENGL6102 Entrance and Exits**
- This course examines how paragraphs, scenes, or stanzas open and exit. In this context, students will study major features of decisions for scene and setting, literal and figurative language, and primary and secondary emphases. Practice will be given in identifying and revising moments of entrances and exits.
Assessment: 100% Coursework
- Session 4 **ENGL6103 Send-Off: Publishing Your Manuscript**
- This course offers practice and practical approaches for preparing a manuscript for publication, whether in poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or drama. Questions of venue, circulation, and submission will be addressed in detail.
Assessment: 100% Coursework

(Ib) RETREATS: Total of 4 Retreats for 6 Credits over Two Years

Each Retreat of 1.5 credits meets one weekend for a minimum of 6 hours each semester.

- Retreat 1 **ENGL6104 Modes**
- This retreat will focus on the history and adaptation of modes, developed by Northrop Frye, as they pertain to strategies for creative writing. In this retreat, students will develop a diction by which to identify convictions, as well as literal and essential actions for their work. This Retreat will provide the foundation for the “Total Writing” method.
Assessment: 50% Participation 50% Coursework

Retreat 2 ENGL6105 Writing Good Dialogue

This retreat focuses on dialogue across genres in creative writing. Students will study techniques of revising dialogue, whether in fiction, creative nonfiction, drama, or dramatic lyric. Elements of good dialogue will be studied and practiced, including the application of literal and essential actions, rising action, perspective, and staging voice.

Assessment: 50% Participation 50% Coursework

Retreat 3 ENGL6106 Action and Drama

In this course, students will learn how to expand contact between the visual and the verbal. Strategies of play and visual improvisation will be adapted to creative writing across genres.

Assessment: 50% Participation 50% Coursework

Retreat 4 ENGL6107 Endings and Beginnings

In this course, students will look at language in relation to cycle and repetition, timing, and acts of literary translation. Whether in refrain, recurrence, or recycling, words reappear. This course will explore how language of return, crafted by writers, moves readers.

Assessment: 50% Participation 50% Coursework

Attendance is compulsory for all Sessions and Retreats.

(II) INDEPENDENT STUDY I AND INDEPENDENT STUDY II: Total of 12 Credits

Students are required to write, revise, edit, and present for assessment a substantial final portfolio at the end of "Independent Study II" comprised of original creative writing. Approximately 2 individual meetings plus correspondence with the tutor for portfolio supervision will be flexibly scheduled.

Independent Study I ENGL6108 Independent Study I

This course establishes independent work by the student with a designated supervisor. It focuses on developing life-long habits of creative writing customized to each student's individual patterns of work. It also offers every student the opportunity to begin development in a specialization of genre.

Assessment: 40% Continuous Assessment 60% Production of Portfolio

Independent Study II ENGL6109 Independent Study II

This course offers students methods of development of specialization, including research in a chosen genre, editing with accuracy toward preparation of a manuscript, and advanced discussions with a supervisor regarding submission of the final portfolio.

Assessment: 40% Continuous Assessment 60% Final Portfolio