

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 and/or interview, if required.
- (b) For the Master of Fine Arts programme in Creative Writing in English, a candidate shall also possess prior experience and knowledge 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, and satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination and/or interview.

MFA 2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination and/or interview 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 and/or interview 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 written assignment or 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 must satisfy the designated examiners, including the Advisor and Programme Chair, by obtaining approval for the Creative Thesis topic by the beginning of year two in order to proceed to writing the Creative Thesis during the period of year two.
 - (d) A candidate who has failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than one course 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 one course 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 (MFA)

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 300 prescribed hours. The programme consists of the following: Sessions 1-4 during year one and year two; and a year-long Independent Study course in year two.

Students are required to pass all 4 Sessions, and the year-long Independent Study, and must present a Creative Thesis of original creative writing upon completion of the course “Independent Study” at the end of year two, preferably suitable for consideration for outside publication as an original creative piece.

(I) Sessions: Total of 4 Sessions over Two Years

Each Session meets weekly approximately for 2 hours for 8 to 10 weeks (depending upon availability and schedule of the writer/lecturer).

Session 1 ENGL6110 Foundations I: Exploring the Field

This course offers foundations in the field of creative writing. What expectations exist when we begin to write or read a story? How does the choice of language for a story bear upon specific decisions of craft for the writer or reader? The extraordinary passages between historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing will be explored, giving each writer greater awareness and choice in drafting and revision.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Session 2 ENGL6111 Foundations II: Contemporary Practices

This course builds upon Foundations I, offering integrated practices and strategies in early workshops. Students will practice, experiment and read as writers, heading toward the direction and selection of a Creative Thesis in Year two, whether in literary fiction or other related genres, such as poetry or creative nonfiction.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Session 3 ENGL6112 Advanced Workshops I

Small workshops will offer students a forum in which to discuss writing practices and each writer’s work toward advanced development of the Creative Thesis.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Session 4 ENGL6113 Advanced Workshops II

Writers will consider how to identify and address small and large problems coming up in their Creative Theses. Through the close work of workshops and discussions, writers will further coordinate their near and long-term aims as writers, whether in crafting a paragraph or a book-length work.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

(II) Independent Study

Students are required to draft, revise, edit, and present for final assessment a substantial Creative Thesis at the end of “Independent Study” in year two, comprised of original creative writing. Approximately 2 individual meetings, 2 substantial submissions per term, plus correspondence with the Advisor for supervision during year two will be flexibly scheduled.

ENGL6114 Independent Study

This course offers students methods of development and specialization for a Creative Thesis in a literary genre: in different years, the following genres for specialization may be offered: literary fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, or drama. During this course in year two, students will write and edit drafts and participate with an Advisor, regarding submission of the Creative Thesis at the end of year two.

Assessment: 100% Coursework, including drafting the Creative Thesis