

## **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.

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### **MFA1 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;<sup>1</sup>
  - (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.

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### **MFA2 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.

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### **MFA3 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.

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the admission requirement specified in General Regulation G 2, the Faculty also requires:  
(a) TOEFL: a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4 or above or a Writing score of 25 or above in the internet-based TOEFL; and  
(b) IELTS: a minimum overall Band of 7 with no subtest lower than 5.5.

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**MFA4            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.

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**MFA5            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.

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**MFA6            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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**MFA7            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.

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**MFA8            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.

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**SYLLABUSES FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF FINE ARTS  
(MFA)**

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**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 five courses and a capstone experience of Creative Thesis. The two foundation courses and the two workshops courses are to be taken in the first and the second year of study respectively. The Creative Thesis is a two-semester course to be taken in the second year of study. The reading course can be taken in either the second or the third semester.

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**ENGL6110 Foundations I: Exploring the Field**

This course offers foundations in the field of creative writing.

The extraordinary passages between historical foundations and contemporary approaches to creative writing will be explored. We will focus on writers' elements of craft and the fluid intersections of genre and languages, giving each writer greater awareness and choice in drafting and revision.

Students will be asked to present selected readings and commentary in a presentation at the end of the semester.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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**ENGL6111 Foundations II: Contemporary Practices**

This course builds upon Foundations I, offering integrated practices and strategies in sessions and 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 drama, screenwriting, poetry or creative nonfiction.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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**ENGL6112 Advanced Workshops I**

Advanced workshops will offer students a forum in which to discuss writing practices and each writer's work toward the structure and development of an original body of a work and the Creative Thesis.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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### **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 sentences, paragraphs or a book-length work.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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### **ENGL6115    Reading for Writers**

Reading widely is essential to framing the array of choices that a writer has for revision. Therefore, writers in this individually-advised and customized course, based on the student's directions toward the Thesis, will study in close observation and detail the elements of craft in selected works. Passages of readings will be observed and analyzed for elements that the writer needs to strengthen the developing Thesis, such as unreliable narration, profluence, flashbacks, backstory, etc.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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### **ENGL6114    Capstone Experience: The Creative Thesis**

The original body of work of the Creative Thesis is the culmination for every writer in the course, a manuscript for submission after the close of the course for international circulation and potential publication.

This two-semester course of Advising on original creative work is designed to support the high-order endeavor of the creative writer, whose work depends of developing individual and sustained habits of writing over a lifetime.

This capstone course, under individual supervision, therefore, develops the essential skills and craft toward developing the Creative Writing Thesis, a primary and essential work representing the writer's voice, and potentially a key calling card in the writer's career: a major submission for potential publication after completion.

During this course, therefore, drafts and revisions are supervised: students will write and edit multiple and guided drafts, working with an Advisor. Revisions in this course build toward submission of the Creative Thesis at the end of the second year. At least two substantial submissions per semester, determined with the Advisor, in addition to guided readings, exercises, and drafts during two semesters will be individually scheduled with the Advisor.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

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