

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

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

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.

MFA1 Admission requirements

- (a) To be eligible for admission to studies leading to the degree of Master of Fine Arts, candidates shall:
 - (i) comply with the General Regulations;¹
 - (ii) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (iii) hold a good Bachelor's degree from this University; or a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (iv) 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, candidates shall also possess prior experience and knowledge of creative writing in English in order to be eligible for admission.
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MFA2 Qualifying examination

- (a) A qualifying examination and/or interview may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination and/or interview shall not be permitted to register unless they have satisfied the examiners in the examination and/or interview.
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MFA3 Award of degree

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

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula; and
- (c) complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations set out below.

¹ 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.

MFA4 Period of study

The curriculum shall normally be completed within two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of four academic years, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

MFA5 Completion of curriculum

To complete the curriculum, candidates shall:

- (a) satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed work;
- (c) complete and present a satisfactory Creative Thesis; and
- (d) satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any form of assessment as prescribed in the syllabuses.

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

MFA6 Assessment

- (a) Candidates' performance during the study shall be assessed through written assignments as prescribed by the courses on a distinction/pass/fail basis in accordance with TPG 9(b) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula. Only passed courses will earn credits.
 - (b) Candidates must satisfy the designated examiners, including the Advisor and Programme Chairperson, by obtaining approval for the Creative Thesis topic by the beginning of the second year of study in order to proceed to writing the Creative Thesis in the second year of study.
 - (c) Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners in not more than one course in an academic year may be permitted to re-submit their work for the failed course for re-assessment within a specified period determined by the Board of Examiners, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester).
 - (d) There shall be no appeal against the results of all forms of assessment.
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MFA7 Discontinuation

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination or re-submission of coursework in any course in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise or re-present their Creative Thesis; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any course; or
- (c) have failed more than one course in an academic year; or
- (d) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MFA 4.

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

MFA8 Assessment results

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark will be recorded in the candidates' degree diploma.

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

CREATIVE WRITING IN ENGLISH

The Master of Fine Arts curriculum in Creative Writing in English is offered part-time over two years. The curriculum 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.

ENGL6110 Foundations I: Exploring the Field (9 credits)

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

ENGL6111 Foundations II: Contemporary Genre Practices (9 credits)

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

ENGL6112 Advanced Workshops I: Specialization in Craft and Genre (9 credits)

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

ENGL6113 Advanced Workshops II: Production and Potential Publication of the Long Creative Work (9 credits)

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

ENGL6115 Guided Reading for Writers (9 credits)

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

ENGL6114 Capstone Experience: The Creative Thesis (15 credits)

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
