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.

These regulations are to be applicable to candidates admitted in the 2019-2020 academic year and thereafter.

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.

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.

MFA3 Award of degree

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

(a) comply with the General Regulations;

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[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.

(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.

MFA4 Period of study

The curriculum shall normally be completed within one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, 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 end of the first semester of full-time study or by the beginning of the second year of part-time study in order to proceed to writing the Creative Thesis in the second semester and the second year of study respectively.
(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.

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 full-time over one year or part-time over two years. Designed to support the multilingual creative writer, as well as all writers currently drafting in English, this unique studio-based curriculum consists of six single-semester courses and one full-year capstone experience of the Creative Thesis. Courses in the programme feature Global Foundation courses, Advanced Workshops, and Craft Courses for all writers, including unique Black Box Studio design courses for the creative writer, as well as sustained Individual Advising for each writer. Each of these courses will contribute to the writer's own vision and culminating Creative Thesis, while emphasising the rigorous coursework, readings and studies needed to realise it.

Semester 1 (for the full-time mode) / Year 1 (for the part-time mode)

ENGL7501 Foundations I: Framing the Field of Creative Writing (9 credits)

This foundations course in the field of Creative Writing in English offers special focus on the intercultural histories and practices of both the monolingual and multilingual Creative Writer. Writers will explore the fluid histories of genre in English and other languages. They will study the staging of monolingual and multilingual experiences on the page and visually. Included will be the urgent history and architecture of both sentence and structure for the Creative Writer in evolving and international frames and contexts.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

ENGL7503 The Writers' Workshop (6 credits)

This Workshop will offer all creative writers, including monolingual and multilingual creative writers, a unique forum in the HKU Black Box in which to discuss comparative creative writing practices, whether working primarily in English, itself a daily and ever changing amalgam of many languages and histories, or working as a multilingual writer through English language instruments at this moment in time.

This Workshop will focus on excerpts from writers' own work each week. Through guided revisions, the Workshop will encourage insight and excellence in the fluid elements of craft, including questions of genre in intercultural contexts. This Workshop will also give writers a chance to engage in new and expert trust, with each other's work and their own projects, toward drafting a major creative thesis.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

ENGL7504 Craft Class: The Visual Page (6 credits)

Reading widely is essential to framing the array of choices that a writer has for revision. Yet both writers and readers may be said, more accurately, to be "watching" or even "directing" a work of creative writing. Therefore, in this unique design studio for writers, students will study advanced strategies of the increasingly attuned observer, whether writer *or* reader: as a scene or moment or experience unfolds with the writer's own close observations and convictions. The course will

therefore explore advanced elements of craft with a focus on the "visual page," including, acts of unreliable narration, profluence, flashbacks, backstory, etc. in monolingual and multilingual contexts.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

Semester 2 (for the full-time mode) / Year 2 (for the part-time mode)

ENGL7502 Foundations II: Framing Your Original Creative Work (9 credits)

This course builds upon Foundations I. In this course, writers will study, and frame with increasing accuracy, their own signatures of history, practice, and voice within the field. We will study the history of what we call "expectation" in the discipline of creative writing, especially in relation to the writer's own decisions for "what's at stake" in an emerging and original Creative Thesis.

The course therefore paves the way, for exploring, generation to generation, what constitutes an 'experimental' work, from both individual and intercultural perspectives. Topics include: monolingual and multilingual conventions of 'expectation'; intercultural and multimedia patterns of reception by readers and audiences; and contemporary "performance" of the text on the page or stage across genres.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

ENGL7505 Special Topics in Creative Writing: The Material and Physicality of Language (6 credits)

Creative Writers are designers. The *material and physicality of language*, packed with essential inflections, embodiments, and details of history and modernity, is the extraordinary and often under-appreciated *medium of design* in the field of creative writing. This Special Topics course offers each Creative Writer the opportunity to explore, uniquely, the beauty of unexpected materiality in their medium, along with the affinities that writers have with fellow artists in making and designing an original work.

In this Special Topics course, writers will receive supervision on independent paths, choosing among coursework at HKU, or at other institutions, on *topics on materiality*, including design practice, which are of direct and indirect relevance to their Creative Thesis. A plan and schedule of artistic *kinship*, best suited to each individual writing project, will be approved by the lecturer of the course and/or the Director of the programme in time for the start of the course: including, for example, courses on documentary, film directing, costume design, landscape architecture, feature journalism, Hong Kong Cantopop lyrics and culture, and more.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

ENGL7506 Black Box Studio for Writers: The 'Built Environment' (6 credits)

This studio course in the Black Box will open the frames of the emerging creative text to its wider artistic and communal contexts. This course will explore the many "built environments" for the creative text and the Life of the Writer after graduation, including: building a Writer's professional profile in the age of the internet and social media, submitting to literary journals, agents, theatres, and publishers with a revised manuscript; disseminating a work of writing in the early stages of a writer's career, and forging new communities of creative writers for life-long passion and exploration of craft in the arts.

To sharpen both individual revisions and public receptions globally, writers will also be given opportunities communally to stage and share excerpts from the writer's developing Thesis, no matter which genre, with professional assistance *in-house* at the Black Box Studio to help each writer's understanding of the totality of "environment" of the text: including, for example, participation with selected visual artists (whether for example videographers, painters, film directors, etc.) on framing a character, scene or chapter on the page; or participation with editors from the in-house literary journal *Yuan Yang,* or participation with Black Box internships; each chosen individually to help the individual writer's emerging work, in the context of the collective and the public sphere of reception and success after graduation.

Assessment: 100% Coursework

ENGL7997 Capstone Experience: The Creative Thesis (18 credits)

The original body of work of the Creative Thesis is the culmination for every creative 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 in an ever-changing ecosystem of dissemination and collaborations.

This capstone course, under close 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 semester of full-time study or the second year of part-time study. 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