

MA Critical and Creative Studies in Literature

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Critical and Creative Studies in Literature
b) Programme code(s)	F/T - 730480C; P/T - 730481C
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Rick Crownshaw
e) Entry requirements	2.1 or high 2.2 (or international equivalent) in a BA in English or related (arts / humanities) subject
f) Academic year effective from	2026-27

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The main purpose of the programme is to offer a challenging, flexible and advanced scheme of study invigorated by current research, which introduces or extends your knowledge and critical, creative and contextual understanding of literary studies. The Masters programme, with different emphases according to the areas of literary studies students may focus on, aspires to:

1. enhance independent critical and evaluative skills
2. promote your analytical engagement with the complexities of literary discourse
3. expand your knowledge and understanding of the diverse cultural, historical and intellectual contexts of literature and other media
4. deepen your understanding of transformations in literary genres and conventions in the specific periods or cultural areas of your chosen specialisations within the programme, and how particular traditions relate to one another as they evolve
5. enhance your knowledge and understanding of diverse literary movements and schools in their historical and cultural contexts, and of key genres central to their particular culture or period
6. encourage you to appreciate literary practices in the light of the traditions from which they emerge

7. develop your critical awareness of literary language and its responses to historical and cultural contexts
8. encourage you to develop your understanding of and proficiency in interdisciplinary approaches to literature and culture
9. develop your methodological skills in the application of theory to literary and cultural criticism
10. expand your knowledge and understanding of the key theoretical and philosophical figures and tendencies informing particular areas of literary studies, and develop your awareness of the creative traffic between literary and theoretical movements
11. enable you to apply your critical and contextual understanding of various genres, traditions and movements of literature through creative literary practice
11. encourage your self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by practising skills of selection, assimilation and communication in both written and oral domains

Overview

The MA Critical and Creative Studies in Literature offers a challenging, flexible and advanced scheme of study invigorated by current research, that introduces or extends your knowledge and critical, creative and contextual understanding of literary studies. You may focus on different areas of literary studies, and enhance their independent critical and evaluative skills, analytical engagement with the complexities of literary discourse and expand your knowledge and understanding of the diverse cultural, historical and intellectual contexts of literature and other media. The programme will encourage you to develop your understanding of and proficiency in interdisciplinary approaches to literature and culture, and to explore these in a variety of critical and creative contexts, including as a creative writer. You will develop your methodological skills in the application of theory to literary and cultural criticism and apply your critical and contextual understanding of various genres, traditions and movements of literature in creative literary practice.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	Not Applicable
c) HECoS Code(s):	English Literature 100319
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Not Applicable

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Literary and Creative Studies Subject Area, Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	Music, English & Theatre If other, name here: Click or tap here to enter text.
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. None 2. None 3. None If other, name here: N/A
e) Entry awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☐ PGCert ☐ PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	☐ Foundation Cert ☐ CertHE ☐ DipHE ☒ PGCert ☒ PGDip
g) Final awards:	MA Critical and Creative Studies in Literature

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	☐ January ☒ Sept/Oct ☐ Other If other, specify: Click or tap here to enter text.
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Indicate the overall balance of teaching modes in the rows below. Row d) shows total hours of directed learning, with e) and f) showing how this is broken down in in-person vs. online learning, in hours and percentages.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	120
e) In-person hours	120
f) Online hours	0
g) Pace of study:	☒ Full time ☒ Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 ☒ years ☐ months Part time: 2 ☒ years ☐ months
i) External accreditation:	Not applicable
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	Not applicable

6. Programme Learning Outcomes

Also, see the [curriculum map](#) at the end of document.

For UG exit awards, Learning Outcomes must be achieved in the level indicated below:

- CertHE = Level 4
- DipHE = Level 5

Learning outcomes are grouped in categories of:

- **Declarative learning** - knowledge, thinking & facts (D1-3)
- **Functional learning** - application of knowledge, thinking & facts (F1-3)
- **Professional and transferable skills and behaviours** (P1-3)

On successful completion of the programme, you will be able to:

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
D1	You will have a critical understanding of a body of literature from a range of different national, historical or geographical areas representative of major tendencies and literary issues, forms and genres, and traditions and movements, in your areas of study.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Where appropriate, you will be able to apply, at an advanced level, literary-critical and theoretical approaches to the literature studied, or at advanced level analyse critical theory and philosophy in its own right, and, where relevant, contextualise your primary texts historically, socially, and culturally.	7	Political in the personal
D3	Where relevant to your studies and assessments, you will be able to demonstrate your understanding of form and genre, traditions and movements through creative practice and the ways that literary-critical and theoretical and contextual analysis informs creative writing.	7	Responsible agency
F1	Integrate diverse evidence into balanced, coherent and rigorous textual evaluations as appropriate to your chosen areas of study, to formulate coherent, persuasive and independent interpretations and arguments that are informed by high standards of scholarly accuracy.	7	Political in the personal
F2	Conduct detailed and sensitive textual analyses and/or creative practice, informed by appropriate, diverse and synthesised critical, theoretical, and contextual knowledge.	7	Diversity of perspective
F3	Expound accurately and critically a range of discourses in literary, aesthetic, cultural, linguistic, or social theory and criticism as appropriate to your chosen areas of study.	7	Responsible agency

	Learning Outcome	Level	Graduate Attribute
P1	Application of skills of detailed close analysis to a variety of texts and contexts, perceiving and accounting critically and sensitively for relationship between text and context.	7	Responsible agency
P2	Enhanced communication and discussion skills in oral contexts, informed by open-mindedness, the capacity for independent judgement, the ability to make positive contributions to groups, and the perception of group dynamics.	7	Collaboration
P3	Power to organise information cogently, to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments, and to manage own learning, including working effectively to deadlines.	7	Responsible agency

7. Programme Structure

For Undergraduate programmes (UG), each level must amount to at least **120 CATS** (60 ECTS).

Postgraduate (PGT) programmes must amount to at least 180 CATS (90ECTS), with exception to interim exit awards.

Programmes are staged in **Phases**, where each Phase relates to an exit award.

Compulsory modules must be taken by all students.

Option modules – you must choose one or more of the options available to this programme at this level and point. The option modules available from this list may vary from year to year, depending on student numbers and staff availability. Selection takes place during your studies, not before.

Programme structure notes (where relevant):

The programme content is identical for full-time and part-time students. However, the compulsory module **"Expanding Literary Studies"** is delivered as a single 60-credit module in the first term of the full-time programme (EN71156B). On the part-time programme it is delivered as two 30-credit modules (**EN71157B** and **EN71158B**) in the first term of the first and second year respectively.

Part-time students will take one of the modules **"Specialist Studies in Literature"** (EN71161A) and **"Specialist Workshop in an Aspect of Creative and Life Writing"** (EN71159A) in the first year and the other in the second year.

Phase 1

Module Name	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Expanding Literary Studies (FT)	EN71156B	60	7	Compulsory	1	N/A See programme structure notes above	N/A
Expanding Literary Studies Part 1 (PT)	EN71157B	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	N/A
Expanding Literary Studies Part 2 (PT)	EN71158B	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y2	N/A
Specialist Studies in Literature	EN71161A	30	7	Compulsory	2	Y1 or Y2	N/A
Specialist Workshop in an Aspect of Creative and Life Writing	EN71159A	30	7	Compulsory	2	Y1 or Y2	N/A

Phase 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Final Creative Critical Project	EN71065D	60	7	Compulsory	2-3	Y2	N/A

8. Learning, Teaching & Assessment

Learning & Teaching methods

Teaching will be via a range of formats to be as relevant as possible to the topic and learning outcomes. This may be through workshops, practical labs, lectures and seminars. It may have a mix of in-person and online activities, designed to give you the best learning experience and to make the most out of your learning experience. You are expected to attend all of your timetabled learning activities.

Specifically, this programme will be taught in the following ways:

Compulsory modules will be delivered through one-hour lectures + two-hour seminars

Option modules will be delivered through two-hour seminars

Dissertation (Critical-Creative Project) supervision will be delivered through one-to-one supervisory sessions+ groups research methods workshops

Assessment modes and approaches

You will be assessed in a range ways throughout your course. These will be both Formative (for feedback and development), and Summative (required to pass and progress to the next level). Summative assessments are compulsory.

Feedback is a crucial part of your learning and development in this programme. You will receive feedback both on your Formative (work in progress) tasks/assessments, and your Summative (graded) assessments. This feedback will help the assessment to be a part of your learning, not just a test. It may be verbal, written or video based. Please engage with this feedback to improve your future work.

Specifically, this programme will be assessed in the following ways:

Compulsory and optional modules will be assessed by summative 6,000-word essays

Dissertation (Critical-Creative Project) will be assessed by a 12,000-word dissertation or a portfolio of creative work and critical reflection amounting to 12,000 words

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules)

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	4	4
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portfolio (multi-modal)	0	0	0	0	1	1
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Written	0	0	0	0	2	2
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	7	7
Of which...	Individual:	7	Group:	0		

9. Other information

Item	Information
a) Assessment regulations	https://www.gold.ac.uk/gam/taught-programmes/assessment/
b) Placement opportunities	N/A
c) Programme-specific requirements	All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. The part-time the structure will is set out in the Programme Structure section. All modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

Item	Information
	More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework. Intermediate Exit Points for this programme: Students may apply for the intermediate exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma, if extenuating circumstance prevent the completion of the MA. These intermediate awards may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification. For the award of the Postgraduate Certificate, at least 30 credits of the compulsory module must be passed. For the award of Postgraduate Diploma to be awarded, at least 60 credits of compulsory modules must be passed.
d) Programme specific costs and resources	Students should anticipate spending £20-30 on books per module taken
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	Graduates of this programme are well equipped to pursue and enhance careers in publishing, journalism, public relations, teaching, advertising, the civil service, business, industry, the media, and the creative industries. The MA will also serve as a platform for doctoral research and is therefore a gateway degree to academia. Skills: Transferable skills, including enhanced communication and discussion skills in written and oral contexts; the ability to analyse and evaluate a wide variety of spoken and written texts from informal as well as institutional settings; an understanding of the concept of communicative competence; the ability to organise information, and to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments.

10. Academic support

There is a range of support available to you to give you the best possible chance of success in this programme.

Please see your tutors and student portal/VLE for details of what's available and how to access this support.

11. Curriculum map

Programme Learning Outcomes assessed by each module:

Module name	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Expanding Literary Studies	EN71156B	Compulsory	☐	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Specialist Studies in Literature	EN71161A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Specialist Workshop in an Aspect of Creative and Life Writing	EN71159A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒
Final Critical or Creative Project	EN71161A	Compulsory	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒