

MA Children's Literature

Programme specification

1. Programme details

Item	Information
a) Programme name (incl. pathways):	MA Children's Literature: Theory and Creative Practice MA Children's Literature: Children's Book Illustration
b) Programme code(s)	TBA
c) Programme credit value(s)	180 CATS 90 ECTS
d) Programme author(s)	Emily Corbett
e) Entry requirements	<p>MA Children's Literature: Theory and Creative Practice</p> <p>BA or BSc Degree at level 2:2 or above from one of the following disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature and Humanities • Education and Childhood Studies • Creative and Arts • Social Sciences <p>OR</p> <p>No degree and at least 3-5 years of relevant work experience.</p> <p>MA Children's Literature: Children's Book Illustration</p> <p>BA or BSc Degree at level 2:2 or above from one of the following disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic Design • Creative and Arts • Illustration

	OR
	No degree and at least 3-5 years of relevant work experience.
f) Academic year effective from	2026-2027

2. Programme Aims & Overview

Aims

The MA Children’s Literature aims to provide students with a critical, creative, and contextual understanding of literature and visual storytelling for young people. The programme supports students in developing advanced knowledge of how texts for young readers are shaped by literary and artistic traditions, cultural narratives, and the social and political forces that inform constructions of childhood. It encourages students to engage critically and ethically with issues of representation, identity, and diversity, and to situate their own scholarly, creative, and/or illustrative practice within wider debates in the field. Students are introduced to a range of research, methodological, and practice-based approaches relevant to the study and creation of children’s literature, enabling them to undertake sustained independent work that is reflective and aligned with their interests and professional contexts. More broadly, the programme aims to foster graduates who can navigate and contribute to contemporary literary, artistic, publishing, and cultural landscapes, offering informed, critically grounded perspectives that speak to different national and professional contexts.

Overview

The MA Children’s Literature offers a flexible and intellectually engaging exploration of texts for young readers, inviting students to examine how children’s and young adult literature is produced, illustrated, circulated, and understood across diverse historical, cultural, and professional contexts. The programme supports both literary and visual approaches to storytelling. Students have the option to develop as researchers and/or creative writers through the Theory and Creative Practice pathway. The Children’s Book Illustration pathway foregrounds visual narrative, image-text relations, and practice-based research in illustration, and is delivered with the School of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies. Students encounter a wide range of critical inquiry and methodological experimentation, alongside opportunities for creative or practice-based work. The programme culminates in a bespoke research or creative project that aligns with each student’s interests and professional aspirations as a researcher, creative writer, and/or children’s book illustrator. Across the programme, students consider how ideas about childhood, identity, and power intersect with questions of genre, form, authorship, illustration, and audience, and how these dynamics continue to evolve within contemporary literary, artistic, and publishing landscapes. The teaching and learning environment supports reflective, inclusive, and collaborative engagement, enabling students from different national and professional backgrounds to contribute meaningfully to shared debates and to develop independent lines of inquiry. By the end of the programme, students will have cultivated the research expertise, analytical skills, and creative confidence to produce sustained written, visual, and multimodal work, and to apply their learning within relevant academic, cultural, creative, or professional settings. The combination of theoretical and practice-based elements will equip graduates of the Theory and Creative Practice pathway to pursue careers in writing, publishing, literary research, and children’s literacy; graduates of the Children’s Book Illustration pathway will have developed the skills to work professionally as illustrators specialising in work for children.

3. External reference

Item	Information
a) FHEQ Level of Award:	7
b) UCAS Code(s):	N/A
c) HECoS Code(s):	100459 (Education Studies) 100444 (Media and Communication Studies)
d) QAA Benchmark group:	Master's Degree Characteristics Statement

4. Awards

Item	Information
a) Awarding institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
b) Teaching institution:	Goldsmiths, University of London
c) Home School:	Mind, Body & Society If other, name here: None
d) School(s) also involved in teaching of the programme:	1. MCCS 2. None 3. None If other, name here: None
e) Entry awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
f) Interim exit awards:	<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation Cert <input type="checkbox"/> CertHE <input type="checkbox"/> DipHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGCert <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PGDip
g) Final awards:	PGCert, PGDip, MA

5. Delivery

Item	Information
a) Language of study:	English
b) Valid intake points in year:	<input type="checkbox"/> January <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sept/Oct <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, specify:
c) Mode of study:	On Campus Selected modules offer hy-flex delivery, where students may join the sessions online. As these hours are synchronous and shared with in-person delivery, they are not shown as online hours.
d) Total hours directed learning/year	150 (approx. with some variation across pathways).
e) In-person hours	150
f) Online hours	0
g) Pace of study:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Full time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part time
h) Duration of programme	Full time: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months

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	Part time: 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> years <input type="checkbox"/> months
i) External accreditation:	N/A
j) Apprenticeship Standard:	N/A

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	Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of the historical development, genres, forms, and visual narrative traditions of children’s and young adult literature, situated within their cultural, social, and publishing contexts.	7	Diversity of perspective
D2	Contextualise a wide range of theoretical frameworks, methodological approaches, and/or creative practices that shape the study, creation, and interpretation of texts for young people.	7	Responsible agency
D3	Critique how narrative and visual texts construct, contest, and mediate identity, ideology, and power, and how perspectives are framed within diverse cultural and creative contexts.	7	Political in the personal
F1	Integrate theory and practice to produce critically informed written, visual, and/or multimodal responses that synthesise advanced scholarship and practice-based research.	7	Responsible agency
F2	Curate, evaluate, and reflect critically on extensive primary and secondary materials to develop coherent theoretical and/or creative outputs.	7	Diversity of perspective

F3	Evaluate theoretical and ethical assumptions underpinning different methodological positions and creative practices, including their social and cultural implications.	7	Political in the personal
P1	Communicate complex ideas with clarity and coherence to specialist and non-specialist audiences through plural forms.	7	Collaboration
P2	Systemically devise substantial independent research and/or creative projects over extended periods, demonstrating creativity, initiative, strategic planning, and resilience.	7	Responsible agency
P3	Reflect critically on personal perspectives, research practices, and creative processes to enhance creative, scholarly, and professional autonomy.	7	Political in the personal

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.

Also, see [curriculum structure grid](#).

Phase 1 (FT)

	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Inclusion and Diversity	ED71093	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	Theory and Creative Practice & Children's Book Illustration
Creative and Critical Practice	ED71155	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y2	Theory and Creative Practice
Children's Book Illustration Practice	MC71198	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y1	Children's Book Illustration

	Code	Credit	Level	Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Picture Book Writing	MC71244	30	7	Compulsory	1	Y2	Children's Book Illustration

Phase 2 (FT)

	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
The Publishing Industry	ED71159	30	7	Compulsory	2	Y2	Theory and Creative Practice
Children's Publishing	MC71199	30	7	Option - Core	2	Y1	Children's Book Illustration
Writing for Young People	TBA	30	7	Option - Core	2	Y1	Theory and Creative Practice & Children's Book Illustration
Children's Literature in Action	ED71151	30	7	Option - Core	2	Y2	Theory and Creative Practice & Children's Book Illustration

Phase 3 (FT)

	Module Code	Credit	Level	Module Type	Term	Year PT	Pathway
Final Project	ED71152	60	7	Compulsory	2-3	Y2	Theory and Creative Practice
Children's Illustration Practice Dissertation	MC71198	60	7	Compulsory	2-3	Y2	Children's Book Illustration

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:

The teaching and learning strategy for this programme is designed to support engaged, collaborative learning through a combination of seminars, workshops, and supervision. Seminars are designed to foster critical debate, theoretical inquiry, and shared interpretation of children’s and young adult texts, while practical workshops provide space for experimentation, creative development, and the application of theory to writing, illustration, and publishing-related practices. Across the programme, students are encouraged to reflect on their learning, engage constructively with peers, and develop independent lines of inquiry supported by regular academic guidance.

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:

Assessment on the programme is designed to support intellectual development, creative experimentation, and reflective professional practice through a range of summative assessment types. These include critical essays, multimodal responses, creative writing, critical commentaries, illustration practice, and industry-related exercises. Assessments are structured to enable students to demonstrate their engagement with theoretical frameworks, textual and visual analysis, and practice-based inquiry, while developing the ability to articulate and reflect critically on their creative and professional work. Across the programme, assessment tasks are aligned with module learning outcomes and encourage progressive skill development, supporting students to integrate research, theory, and practice in sustained and original ways. Written, visual, and multimodal submissions provide opportunities for students to work across different forms and methodologies, while formative feedback supports reflection, revision, and independent development. This varied assessment strategy recognises diverse strengths and academic backgrounds, and prepares students for further research, creative practice, and engagement with contemporary literary, artistic, and publishing contexts.

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules) – Theory and Creative Practice Pathway

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	3	3
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	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which...	Individual:	4	Group:	0		

Assessment diet (number of assessments for compulsory modules) – Children’s Book Illustration Pathway

Mode	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7	Total
Coursework	0	0	0	0	1	1
Exam	0	0	0	0	0	0
Live	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portfolio (multi-modal)					1	1
Practical / multimedia	0	0	0	0	2	2
Written	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Of which...	Individual:	4	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	N/A
d) Programme specific costs and resources	N/A
e) Employability and potential career opportunities	The programme prepares students for a wide range of careers in academia, education, publishing, and the children’s and young adult media industries, while also supporting those seeking to develop as researchers, writers, illustrators, or creative practitioners. Students develop advanced critical, creative, and analytical skills through seminars, workshops, and portfolio-based assessment, enhancing adaptability, intercultural awareness, and professional communication. Engagement with the creative and publishing industries enables students to gain insight into the relationship between cultural production and commercial contexts, including editorial processes,

Item	Information
	marketing strategies, and contemporary industry roles. Collaborative learning activities foster interpersonal skills such as communication, empathy, and professional collaboration, while independent research and creative projects strengthen planning, organisation, and reflective practice. Across the programme, students build confidence in presenting ideas through written, visual, and multimodal forms, equipping graduates with high-level transferable skills and sector-specific knowledge applicable to careers in research, creative writing, illustration, publishing, teaching, and related cultural and creative professions.

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:

	Code	Type	D1	D2	D3	F1	F2	F3	P1	P2	P3
Inclusion and Diversity	ED71093	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Critical and Creative Practice	ED71155	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
The Publishing Industry	ED71159	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Book Illustration Practice	MC71198	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Picture Book Writing	MC71244	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Writing for Young People	TBA	Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Publishing	MC71199	Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Children's Literature in Action	ED71151	Option - Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Final Project	ED71152	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children's Illustration Practice Dissertation	MC71200	Compulsory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

