

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA Drama and Creative Writing (WW48)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in Drama and Creative Writing is delivered at three levels, certificate, intermediate, and honours, each of which comprises a year of full-time study during which you will follow modules to the value of 120 credits across your two departments (only 60 credits of those being in Creative Writing). The first year of Creative Writing is fixed, while the second and third year involve a high level of student choice. The general structure is pyramidal: in the first year you will take a broadly focused module, intended to introduce you to a wide range of creative forms, not only fiction, poetry and performance writing, but also song writing, television and screenwriting, stand-up comedy, and others. In the second year you choose two from a range of creative forms, and one of those forms is taken on to an advanced level in the third year. Year three also includes a module designed to engage you more directly with the creative industries in which many writers have to work.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	November 2023	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Drama and Creative Writing	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	1079	UCAS code	WW48
Year of entry	2024/25		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Drama, Theatre and Dance	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	English
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time or part-time	Duration of the course	Three years or six years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information					
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study					
Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	CW1010	Introduction to Creative Writing	30	4	MNC
1	CW1020	Why Write?	30	4	MNC
1	DT1100	Theatre and Performance-Making	30	4	MC
1	DT1200	Theatre and Text	30	4	MC
<p>This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.</p> <p>In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.</p>					
3.2 Optional modules					
<p>In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.</p>					

Stage two:

For **Drama** you must take 60 credits from the following baskets of options:

30 credits from **either** Theatre & Performance Making **or** Theatre & Text

30 credits from **either** Theatre & Culture **or** Theatre & Ideas

For **Creative Writing** you must take 60 credits from:

CW2010 Playwriting (30 credits)

CW2020 Fiction (30 credits)

CW2030 Poetry (30 credits)

Stage three:

In **Creative Writing** you must take 30 credits from the following:

CW3010 Playwriting 2 (30 credits)

CW3020 Fiction 2 (30 credits)

CW3030 Poetry 2 (30 credits)

(Each has a corresponding prerequisite in the second year, so if, say, you are taking Fiction 2, you must have studied Fiction in Year 2.)

Plus 30 credits from the following:

CW3108 Creative Writing Special Focus: Writing about Music (15 credits)

CW3107 Creative Writing Special Focus: Vernacular Literature (15 credits)

CW3110 Creative Writing Special Focus: Writing Queerness (15 credits)

CW3105 Creative Writing Special Focus: Short Story (15 credits)

CW3106 Creative Writing Special Focus: Screenwriting (15 credits)

CW3109 Creative Writing Special Focus: Writing Men (15 credits)

Plus 60 credits from the following modules in **Drama**:

DT3500 English/Drama Research Seminar (Performance) (30 credits)

DT3501 English/Drama Research Seminar (Longer Essay) (30 credits)

Advanced Options (30 credits each)

DT3201 Final Year Project – Dissertation (30 credits)

DT3204 Taught Dissertation (30 credits)

DT3203 Final Year Project - Special Study (30 credits)

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Part time students must take:

Stage one (a) and Stage one (b):

60 credits each year

Stage two (a) and Stage two (b):

60 credits each year

Stage three (a) and Stage three (b):

60 credits each year

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to provide a rigorous academic environment in which you can develop your critical and creative engagement with literary and performance writing;
- to complement and support theoretical discussion and textual analysis with practical exploration;
- to engage you with a historically broad range of different creative forms and familiarise you with significant debates that you have generated;
- to foster an appreciation of a wide range of creative writing forms from the perspectives of critic and practitioner;
- to encourage the development of critical and creative vocabularies with which to handle new creative work, including your own;
- to further your ability to engage in a range of cultural and theoretical debates about the processes of cultural production, the nature and value of artistic achievement, the appropriate forms and levels of support;
- to equip you with a practical level of critical awareness about the 'real-world' industrial conditions for the contemporary creative writer.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforced, enhanced and developed their appreciation of and confidence with creative expression, their Creative Writing work building on and complementing the theoretical, critical and historical understanding and knowledge developed in the Drama or English half of their degree (K); 2. Developed a knowledge and appreciation of a historical range of creative forms, styles, and genres, and made their own critical and creative interventions in those forms (K); 3. Demonstrated the ability to describe, debate, and assess their own writing and the writing of others, both of established writers and of their fellow students (K); 4. Gained a critical understanding of the field of cultural production (the structure, finances, policies, institutions) across a range of forms, as it currently exists in Britain, with some comparative work on other cultures (K); 5. Explored a wide range of critical debates about performance, culture, creativity and their origins, their psychological and sociological dynamics, the philosophical puzzles they present, the arguments over their functions, and debates concerning aesthetic form (K); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Considered the different uses of texts, exploring where relevant the way that production and performance involves reinterpretation, the different uses of typography, artistic interventions in other texts, how performance might be centrally involved in writing (K); 7. Engaged analytically and experientially with the processes of creative writing; developing ideas; the role of research; the selection of material; the use of intertextuality; ways of transforming and challenging ideas; working through writer's block; how to edit and rewrite; presenting a manuscript; etc. This outline is consistent with the Dance, Drama and Performance benchmarking document (2002) available at http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/phase2/dance.pdf and the English benchmarking statement (2000) available at http://www.qaa.ac.uk/crntwork/benchmark/english.pdf (K); 8. Demonstrated the ability to describe, debate, and assess their own writing and the writing of others, both of established writers and of their fellow students (S*); 9. Engaged analytically and experientially with the processes of creative writing; developing ideas; the role of research; the selection of material; the use of intertextuality; ways of transforming and challenging ideas; working through writer's block; how to edit and rewrite; presenting a manuscript; etc. (S*); |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching is mostly by means of seminars and writing workshops, in which ideas, theoretical readings, set texts, and creative work can be discussed and explored practically. Practical workshops may take a variety of forms, depending on the creative process that we're exploring. You will learn through a variety of means; first, you will learn through participation in seminars and workshops, and through private study to prepare for these classes and for the written assignments demanded by them. In the third year, you will be encouraged to do a moderate amount of field work to research the industries in which you have specialised. Most crucially, though, you will learn experientially, through the process of writing, receiving feedback, learning from others, rewriting, and seeing your work performed, installed or published. Student assessment will be principally through the production of creative work of increasing length and complexity across the three years of the degree; each creative submission will be accompanied by an assessment document in which you will be encouraged to reflect on and critically engage with your work and process, placing it within a theoretical and cultural context. There will also be essays and a research project. There are no formal exams in the Creative Writing half of the degree.

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, for the assessments listed as 'summative', you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College