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UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

MA Drama and
Creative Writing in
Education

Course Code: MDCEW

2020/21

MA Drama and Creative Writing in Education (MDCWE)

Material Information Summary for Postgraduate Applicants

Confirmed at August 2019

General Information

Award	Masters of Arts Creative Writing in Education
Contained Awards	Post Graduate Certificate Creative Writing in Education Post Graduate Diploma Creative Writing in Education
Awarding Body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of Qualification & Credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 180 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England

Course Lengths & Standard

Timescales Start dates will be notified to students c via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

The format is:

- 1 year (full time, campus based and blended learning)
- 2 year (part time, campus based and blended learning)

Part Time Study PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that the work placement option is not generally available to PT students.

Location(s) of Delivery Headingley Campus

Entry Requirements Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here: www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/recognition-of-prior-learning.

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:

AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Course Fees

Standard Text: Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Work based learning

Students will undertake a minimum of two work based learning placements. These will be housed within the following modules: **Drama & Creative Writing in Practice - 40 credits; Major Project in an Educational Setting – 60 credits.** There will be an expectation that students' placements are contrasting (for example, one may be linked to mainstream schooling and the other to an alternative placement). For those students who do not have a background in education, there will also be the opportunity to undertake an additional 'optional' placement in conjunction with **Making Drama** and **Creative Writing Pedagogies** modules.

Timetable Information

Timetables will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Outlook Calendar
- ii) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- iii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

Policies, Standards and Regulations www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/public-information

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

Key Contacts

Your Course Director

Tom Dobson

Your Academic Advisor

Lisa Stephenson

Your Course Administrator

Jane Sadler education@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- The confidence, skills and knowledge necessary to adopt the identity of a creative teacher-writer working with a range of genres and medias (including digital);
- The confidence, skills and knowledge to adopt the identity of drama practitioner working with a range of genres and medias (including digital);
- The multi-disciplinary ability to synthesise creative writing and drama pedagogies and practices for the benefit of a community of learners in educational settings;
- The confidence to create a nurturing community of learners through creative writing and drama practices and pedagogies;
- Specialist in-depth knowledge in a particular aspect of creative practice through elective modules;
- Critical enquiry skills to synthesise up-to-date theory and research with reflection upon the processes of practice;
- An informed, critical and creative approach to understanding both practice-led research and their role as educators.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate knowledge and increased confidence in combining skills as writers, text producers, drama practitioners and educators
2	Be culturally responsive in working with others through critically reflecting upon the construction of communities of practice
3	Demonstrate critical understanding of identity as a creative writer/ text producer and performance maker
4	Critically evaluate national and international contemporary pedagogical approaches to teaching creative writing and drama in different educational settings
5	Demonstrate specialist knowledge and practice in the fields of writing, performance and education
6	Demonstrate innovative solutions to context-specific learning situations through critical reflection and practice-led research

Teaching and Learning Activities

- **Learning and Teaching Approaches**

The programme seeks to provide:

- A community of practice which nurtures creative and pedagogical processes and approaches based on the values of an academic collaborative community;
- An active learning environment involving partnership and collaboration with a range of educational, community and cultural settings;
- A learning climate that supports and credits different learning styles and students who may be entering postgraduate study through non-traditional routes.

The programme approach to learning and teaching is informed by the following:

- A commitment to helping students to develop their own creative practice through negotiated learning, which takes place in the form of a Learning Agreement. Learning Agreements are used in the 60 credit module to allow the student to identify how they would like to be assessed in relation to the module learning outcomes. The Learning Agreement is a contract between staff and students that agrees on the mode of assessment, component weightings and assessment criteria.
- A commitment to the promotion of a holistic personal development within which individual's creative, critical and contextual understanding as well as technical and professional skills are integrated.
- A commitment to making conscious and explicit the research informed teaching and professional practice undertaken by all staff contributing to the programme.
- A commitment to employability issues through two contrasting placement opportunities.
- A commitment to exposing students to up-to-date national and international research and practice in the teaching of creative writing and drama in a range of cultural educational settings.

- **Learning and Teaching Activities**

The programme will develop communities of practice through face-to-face teaching and learning. Most modules will utilise seminars for group discussion, presentations, feedback and collaborative learning and will be led by academic staff with relevant research expertise. More specifically to creative writing and drama, workshops will be used whereby the tutor and the students will collaborate creatively and feedback on each other's work.

Each student will be allocated a personal tutor who will be able to support them in their academic work throughout the modules through structured and responsive coaching tutorials.

There are 2 modules (**Drama & Creative Writing in Practice; Major Project in an Educational Setting**) which involve professional placements in educational/ community settings. In negotiation with academic staff, students will typically be able to choose from a range of creative projects for their work based learning. The professional placements will involve students critically reflecting upon their learning, the learning of others and the interconnectedness of a community of practice. All students

will be supported by an allocated supervisor who will visit once during the placement in order to provide formative feedback.

For **Major Project in an Educational Setting**, each student will be allocated a supervisor who will guide the student in drawing up their Learning Agreement and developing and investigating a negotiated line of enquiry in order to develop as an independent practice-researcher.

- **Graduate Attributes**

N/A

- **Use of the Virtual Learning Environment**

The VLE (MyBeckett) will be used in the following ways:

- As a repository for learning materials and resources;
- As a forum for discussions;
- As a means of feedback and formal assessment;
- As a means of identifying student professional placement information.

- **Use of Blended Learning**

In order to develop learning communities, most of the teaching on the course will be face-to-face. However, in line with other creative practice courses, the VLE will also be used to develop supportive and productive online communities, where feedback is sought and given and coaching can take place with an appropriate supervisor. We will also develop electronic learning materials in order to allow for the possibility of blended learning occurring in some of the programme's module, depending upon market need and developments in this area.

Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Level 7 Core Modules

Making Drama (20 credits)

Creative Writing Pedagogies (20 credits)

Major Project in an Educational Setting (60 credits)

Drama and Creative Writing in Practice (40 credits)

The information above relates to the 2020/21 delivery year.

The following option modules are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules.

Level 7 Option Modules

Students can choose 1 elective from the list below during semester 2:

- Journeys and Discoveries (20 credits)
- Social History of Education (20 credits)
- The Festival Project (20 credits)
- South Asian Storytelling (20 credits)
- Education for Democratic Citizenship: Principles and Practice (20 credits)

Students can choose 1 elective from the list below during semester 1

- Drama for Social Change (20 credits)
- Literature and Childhood (20 credits)
- The information above relates to the 2020/21 delivery year.

Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

Assessment

On this course students will be assessed through a broadly even mix of coursework and oral presentations. There is a major Project in an Educational Setting will require the production of a dissertation of 10 Thousand words.

Workload

Overall Workload for the Course	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	150 hours
Independent Study	1575 hours
Placement	75 hours

Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

If you have any questions about life at our University in general, call into or contact the Student Advice Hub on either campus. This team, consisting of recent graduates and permanent staff, are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. There is a Student Advice Hub on the ground floor of the Rose Bowl at City Campus and one in Campus Central at Headingley. You can also find the team in the Gateway in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus. Email enquiries may be directed to studentadvicehub@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.