



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## BA (Hons) Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture

Course Code: BCWCC

2022/23

# ***BA (Hons) Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture (BCWCC)***

## **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2022/23 Undergraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at Jan/2022

### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture
<b>Contained Awards</b>	Bachelor of Arts Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture (Level 6)  Diploma of Higher Education Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture (Level 5)  Certificate of Higher Education Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture (Level 4)
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 4 years (full time, campus based with up to 12 months Sandwich Placement undertaken between year 2 and year 3)</li><li>• 6 years (part time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of 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.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	City Campus, Leeds (plus location of work placement, if applicable)
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer

are located here: <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Course Fees

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to:  
[Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Timetable Information

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) 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/academicregulations](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/academicregulations))

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course/ or add details of approved regulatory exemptions which apply.

## Key Contacts

### Your Course Director

Professor Rob Burroughs

### Your Academic Advisor

Your Academic Advisor will be selected from lecturing staff and you will be introduced to him or her in Induction.

### Your Course Administrator

[adminculturalstudiesandhumanities@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:adminculturalstudiesandhumanities@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Sandwich Placement Information

### Summary

Leeds Beckett is dedicated to improving the employability of our students and one of the ways in which we do this is to support our students to gain valuable work experience through work-based placements. Our placement teams have developed strong links with companies, many of whom repeatedly recruit our students into excellent placement roles. Our teams are dedicated to supporting students through every

stage of the placement process. Details of how to contact our placement teams may be found here: [www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/placement-information](http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/studenthub/placement-information)

### **Length**

Students have the option of taking up a sandwich placement for up to 12 months, undertaken between Year 2 and Year 3 (Level 5 and Level 6).

### **Location**

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependant on the opportunity.

## **Other 'In Year' Work Placement Information**

### **Summary**

There is an optional Module at Level 6, 'Career Cartographies: work-integrated learning in the Humanities', which involves work placement.

### **Length**

Level 6: 80 hours work placement.

### **Location**

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University. The locations will vary, dependent on the opportunity.

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

### **Professional Body**

N/A

### **Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

N/A

## **Course Overview**

### **Aims**

BA (Hons) Creative Writing in Contemporary Culture places creative writing practices at the heart of learning about the issues that shape culture. Students develop their understanding of contemporary culture through creative responses to literature, media and history. Our aim is to produce writers who are adept at understanding and deploying writing techniques across a range of modes – both analogue and

digital – as well as developing an awareness of how writing practice can be applied to professional situations outside the academy. Students will develop their self-reflexivity and self-awareness as writers and participants in culture and its linked industries.

The course will equip students with skills of critical analysis, fluent and persuasive communication, digital literacy, global citizenship, empathy, interpersonal and intercultural intelligence and mediation, all of which are highly prized in professional contexts. Indeed the World Economic Forum prizes these attributes amongst its top ten skills for future jobs (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/10/top-10-work-skills-of-tomorrow-how-long-it-takes-to-learn-them/>). The programme is designed to foster well-rounded graduates who can critically appraise texts and generate their own, to a deadline or brief, and who are able to discuss, reflect and critique their own work and that of others. These key attributes will ensure that our graduates are capable citizens in a global world by equipping them to succeed in evolving employment contexts.

The course includes the option of a sandwich placement year after the first two years of study. This element complements other opportunities to develop transferable, employable skills which exist throughout the course, most explicitly in 'Live Brief' and work-related learning core and option modules at Levels 5 and 6.

### Course Learning Outcomes

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

1	work across genres and styles, and develop critical viewpoints upon issues such as voice, register and audiences, in the production of advanced creative work.
2	demonstrate systematic knowledge of contemporary contexts in the shaping of cultural practices (broadly defined, ranging from high-brow to popular, for example, and from the local to the global, and digital to print).
3	demonstrate accurate and well-developed analysis of contemporary culture which might inform creative writing practice.
4	evaluate creative practices, one's own and that of others, to find solutions to problems.
5	reflect on the processes and products of their own creative work and that of others, and engage and communicate confidently with diverse audiences.
6	through independent, extended project working, identify and use the enterprise skills of evaluation, self-reflection, initiative, creativity, project-management, independent thought and collaborative working.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Scheduled contact time is primarily delivered by means of lectures, seminars and workshops. Seminars and workshops are particularly important as forums in which students work together, developing ideas and working collaboratively and independently with the guidance of a tutor. The use of digital technology is a key aspect of the learning and teaching in various modules, including in creative writing workshops. Where academic content and good educational practice make it appropriate, student learning may be facilitated through a range of digital technologies.

Independent learning may involve the close reading of primary sources across the disciplines of literature, history and media, as well as suggested secondary sources. It will also necessitate reading from the learning resources suggested by the module tutor; independent research using books, journals, websites, and electronic databases; completing seminar preparation tasks; collaborative work with other students on prepared topics, and both assessed and informal presentations. In the creative writing modules, which form the spine of the programme across the three years, learning will comprise guided creative writing tasks and reflective exercises on the creative process, such as keeping a reflective journal.

In addition to the learning that takes place in the modules, students are offered a range of supplementary activities to enhance their experience on the course. Academic Advisors are assigned to all students and offer pastoral and academic support, including academic writing tuition. Further study skills support is offered centrally through Skills 4 Learning and our subject librarians. We have also offered, in recent years, a range of enhancement sessions that focus on the writing craft and the industry (e.g. workshops on specific aspects of the craft, consultations on work in progress and symposia on editing and the publishing industry).

### Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Part-time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. 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 4			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Writers' Workshop 1 (20 credits)	Y	Writers' Workshop 2 (20 credits)	Y
Contemporary Literary Studies (20 credits)	Y	The Public and the Past (20 credits)	Y
Cultural Studies	Y	Adaptation: Literary Afterlives	Y

(20 credits)		(20 credits)	
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Level 5			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Writing Fictions (20 credits)	Y	Writing Poetry (20 credits)	Y
Black British Culture (20 credits)	Y	Theory into Practice (20 credits)	Y
Option Module 1 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 2 (20 credits)	N

#### Indicative Level 5 Option Modules:

Digital History

Popular Music and the Moving Image

Comedy, Media and Diversity

Youth, Crime, Culture

Applied Humanities

Postcolonial Writing

The Twentieth Century: Alienation and Dystopia

Level 6			
Semester 1	Core (Y/N)	Semester 2	Core (Y/N)
Creative Writing Project – delivered across Semesters 1 and 2 (40 credits)	Y	Creative Writing Project (continued)	Y
Option Module 1 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 3 (20 credits)	N
Option Module 2 (20 credits)	N	Option Module 4 (20 credits)	N

## **Indicative Level 6 Option Modules:**

Writing in a Time of Violence

Career Cartographies

Digital Media and Culture

Civil Rights in North America

Life Writing

Experimental Writing

Narrative and Disability

Postcolonial Cities

Twentieth Century Women Novelists

Cultural Crossings: Race, Writing and Resistance

Public History Project

The Gothic

Lifestyle, Media, identity

Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa

Streetlife: Urban Culture and Society Since c.1850

Race, Culture and Media

Sports Media

Media Celebrity and Film Stardom

Human Obsolescence

Music and The Digital

Space Media

Storytelling for Social Impact

Surveillance Cultures

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities by Level

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

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

### Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	216 hours	216 hours	157 hours
Independent Study	984 hours	984 hours	1043 hours
Placement	-	-	80 hours (on Career Cartographies option only)

Contact hours vary on the large number of option modules available on this course. The above figures are based on 36 hours of contact per module, other than for the Creative Writing Project.

### 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.

## **Student Services**

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers 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. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at [studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

## **Support and Opportunities**

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.