

Programme Specification

BA Creative Writing and Film & Theatre

For students entering Part 1 in September 2026

UCAS Code: WW48

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Creative Writing and Film & Theatre with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Creative Writing and Film & Theatre with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Creative Writing / Communication, Media, Film and Cultural Studies; Dance, Drama & Performance

Programme information and content

The programme gives you subject-specific knowledge and more general skills. It will enable you to develop creative writing skills, and to exercise creative writing skills appropriate to the demands of various forms. You will also gain knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary, dramatic and film texts, from a range of different periods. You will become familiar with the variety of critical perspectives and analytical methods within and between the disciplines. The course aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the disciplines of English Literature and of Film & Theatre. You can also select optional modules that allow you to situate your study of film and theatre in relation to television forms and practices, permitting the exploration of how key concepts such as performance and genre are inflected across different mediums. During your degree, you will encounter works that will stay in your memory and enrich your life for a long time after you leave us. Many of our alumni work in the creative industries, with roles in arts administration or film, television or theatre production. Graduates also go on to work in commercial marketing and media, advertising, journalism, and teaching.

Part 1:	<p>In Creative Writing, Part 1 introduces you to writing in a variety of forms, and to debate approaches to the study of literature, through critical and research exercises and close study of selected texts from a number of different periods.</p> <p>In Film & Theatre, Part 1 introduces you to the academic study of film and theatre across a range of approaches and practices, instilling foundational terminology and key disciplinary debates. You will get the</p>
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	opportunity to engage with the disciplines both theoretically/critically and practically (depending on your module choices), learning the scholarly protocol of formal essay-writing and being able to choose an induction in the safe and appropriate use of facilities and equipment.
Part 2:	<p>In Creative Writing, Part 2 gives you an opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills, focusing on various forms individually. It provides you with greater breadth of coverage, and studies texts within historical periods and generic traditions.</p> <p>In Film & Theatre, Part 2 provides opportunities to develop your understanding of film and theatre through the discovery and investigation of particular issues, explored via in-depth discussions across lectures, seminars and workshops. You will begin the process of identifying a dissertation or creative research project topic, leading to an increasingly confident use of study resources and scholarly methodologies.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	Professional Placement Year and Study Abroad opportunities are available between Parts 2 and 3.
Part 3:	<p>In Creative Writing, Part 3 gives you the opportunity to master your knowledge and skills. You will undertake more specialized and independent literary study, choosing your modules from a wide range of options. The dissertation module develops your skills in research, planning and writing.</p> <p>In Film & Theatre, Part 3 fosters specialist knowledge in film and/or theatre via Options closely informed by staff research and advanced independent research and enquiry through the dissertation or creative research project on a topic of your choice, supported by staff supervision.</p>

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Creative Writing and Film & Theatre

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	To demonstrate the ability to read as a writer, to analyse texts, performances and / or broadcasts, and to respond to the affective power of language using appropriate approaches, terminologies and creative strategies.
2	To initiate, devise, compose and conclude creative projects in which your own and other people's ideas are articulated concisely, accurately and clearly.
3	To demonstrate the deployment of language in a sophisticated and nuanced fashion, with a heightened awareness of concision, voice, idiom, idiolect, simile, metaphor, analogy, rhythm and media-specific restraints.

4	To edit your own work, and that of peers, with a high level of rigour and scrutiny, at the various levels of clause, line, sentence, stanza, paragraph but also at the structural level of overall scene, chapter, collection, book.
5	To recognise what and how you have learnt, through self-reflection and through constructive dialogue with other people.
6	To demonstrate personal commitment, intercultural competence, and international engagement in public discourse.
7	To value personal, social, civic, and global perspectives, looking beyond any immediate task or question to its wider contexts.
8	To apply a critical awareness of film, television and/or theatre's relationship with wider social, political, industrial, cultural and ecological practices and contexts.
9	To analyse the relationship between historical and contemporary forms and practices in film, television and/or theatre.
10	To apply knowledge and understanding of a range of methods and approaches for the practical, creative, critical, theoretical and/or historical analysis of film, television and/or theatre.
11	To design, undertake and present research appropriate to the disciplines of film, television, and/or theatre and performance.
12	To demonstrate an ability to bring critical thinking and creative practice into a sustained and mutually beneficial relationship.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes	
Study Abroad	
By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.	
Placement	
By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.	

Module information
Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EN1CW	Introduction to Creative Writing	20	4
EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4
FT1ATF	Approaches to Film	20	4
FT1ATP	Analysing Theatre and Performance	20	4
FT1ITS	Introduction to Scriptwriting	20	4

Remaining credits will come from optional modules in the Departments of English Literature. Students must have 60 credits from the Department of English Literature and 60 credits from the Department of Film, Theatre and Television. Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must select 60 credits of optional credits from the Department of English Literature, at least 40 credits of which are to be taken from a list of modules in Creative Writing. Students must select at least ONE of the Identity, Performance and Culture (FT2IPC) OR Film Forms and Cultures (FT2FFC), whichever is relevant to their specialisation. Students must select additional optional modules in Film, Theatre and Television to make up to 60 credits.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4-year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad. Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select one 40 credit dissertation or Creative Research Project module.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules from a list of modules provided by the Department of English Literature. Students taking FT3CRP OR FT3DISS must select 40 credits of modules in Creative Writing.

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Film, Theatre and Television.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available from an approved list.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University,

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Teaching and learning delivery:

In **Creative Writing**, you will be taught through a combination of lectures, workshops, seminar discussion and portfolio tutorials. The dissertation module is supported by workshops and individual supervision.

In **Film & Theatre**, you will be taught through lectures, seminars, supervision tutorials and, depending on your specialisation and module choices, practical workshops and tutorials using our specialist equipment and facilities.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours.

The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 252 hours, Part 2 - 144 hours, Part 3 - 144 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected

to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

In **Creative Writing**, assessment is conducted through a mixture of assessed portfolios, essays and formal examination.

In **Theatre**, you will be predominantly assessed through coursework. Depending on your module choices and specialisation, coursework may include essays and other forms of writing (such as learning journals and blogs), group practical work accompanied by documentation, videographic criticism, and presentations which may be accompanied by reflective reports.

Progression

Part 1

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students are able to transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme in one of their joint subject areas at the end of Part 1, subject to:

- Meeting the University Threshold Standard at the end of Part 1; and
- Achieving marks of at least 40% in at least 40 credits of modules (e.g., 2 x 20 credit modules) in the subject to which they wish to transfer; and
- Meeting any programme-specific progression rules for the Part 1 Single Honours Programme to which they wish to transfer.

NB Students taking a Major/Minor programme may only transfer to a Single Honours programme in the Major subject and must meet the above requirements.

Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

Students who transfer from a Joint or Major/Minor Honours programme to a Single Honours programme may not have taken all of the Part 1 modules listed in the Single Honours Programme Specification. The modules which they have taken will be shown on their Diploma Supplement.

Part 2

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class

50% - 59% Lower Second class

40% - 49% Third class

35% - 39% Below Honours Standard

0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including study abroad

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad: Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £150 to £250 a year. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module-specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

In Theatre you will incur costs for theatre, cinema and/or gallery trips linked to Department modules and module assessments. These visits are an essential and very enjoyable part of your studies. We recommend that you budget between £60-to £100 for this per year. We secure discounted tickets in good seats through group booking, and travel costs can be significantly reduced by booking well in advance, travelling off-peak, and using Group Travel discounts and a 16-25 rail card. To help reduce costs, we also include visits to venues in Reading and Oxford as well as London where appropriate, and we invite practitioners to the department to perform/exhibit work and hold workshops and master classes for our students.

You are not required to purchase any practical equipment, as the Department provides the necessary equipment and facilities. If you require specialist materials for practical work, a technician will source this for you, following consultation with the relevant academic member of staff.

If you partake in Study Abroad you should expect to pay for services which you would normally expect to pay for at Reading e.g. housing, food, travel, social activities, etc. Additional costs will vary depending on the host institution and location. Please see the Study Abroad website for further details.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2025.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Creative Writing and Film & Theatre for students entering Part 1 in session 2026/27
3 July 2025

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