

## Programme Specification

### BA (Hons) Creative Writing and English Language

<i>School:</i>	Humanities Education, Language and Psychology
<i>Subject area:</i>	Creative Writing Language and Linguistics
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2020-21
<i>in the month(s) of</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	N/A
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Certificate of Higher Education Creative Writing and English Language Diploma of Higher Education Creative Writing and English Language BA (Ord) Creative Writing and English Language
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Q390
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	English Linguistics
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	<a href="#">Undergraduate periods of study</a> for full time and part time
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with Foundation Year</i>	Yes
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	Yes
<i>Opt-in YSJU Placement Year opportunity:</i>	Yes

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### Introduction and special features

Joint Honours programmes give students the opportunity to combine two subjects from a range of areas in a structured way. The selected pairings are designed to complement one another and allow you to have a significant amount of choice and flexibility in relation to your learning experience. In addition, Joint Honours will engage you in a range of learning and teaching experiences and assessment opportunities.

### Creative Writing

Creative Writing is a thriving subject area at YSJU, with a growing undergraduate programme and a large postgraduate community. Exploration of a wide range of literary forms and genres and the production of original creative writing is at the heart of Creative Writing. York St John takes a specific approach to Creative Writing which recognises it as a practice-based subject underpinned by a critical understanding of literature. As a Creative Writing student, you will benefit from the opportunity to create original works, experiment with a range of forms and genres, and develop your writing in a supportive and inspiring environment. At the same time, you will study literature in a range of contexts and learn to become a sophisticated reader of texts, which in turn will inform your own writing. The degree develops your creative and analytical skills, and the practical skills necessary for employability. You will become a confident, independent learner and practitioner with enhanced creativity and a range of transferrable skills.

The teaching team for Creative Writing are acclaimed, published writers and critics, who are also active scholars with a range of research specialisms. The teaching on our programme is supported by a wealth of practical experience and expertise in the theoretical, social and cultural contexts of writing. The course is further enhanced by a range of visiting writers and literary professionals, whose masterclasses and events offer you an opportunity to engage with the wider world of the professional writer. The subject area has strong links with the York Literature Festival, and we host major public events each year, with students often having the opportunity to study and then learn directly from writers appearing at the Festival. Students have the opportunity to get involved in a range of events and extra-curricular activities each year. At York St John University, you will be part of vibrant community in which you can fulfil your own creative, academic and professional ambitions.

### **English Language**

Linguistics concerns the study of language from a broad range of perspectives, including the way speech is articulated, how language is structured and related to meaning, and how it relates to speakers' intentions and purposes in social interaction. As well as studying how speakers and writers use language and how it is acquired, processed and used in communicative contexts, linguists also study social attitudes to language, and the way language functions to express identities and cultural values. New forms of communication, such as email, texting and instant messaging, have opened up new and interesting fields for the study of language as a form of social behaviour. English Language at York St John is distinctive in its focus on real-world applications for language study. Often taking a workshop approach, we offer you ways to apply theoretical knowledge to real data, and show how linguistic concepts and issues have vocational relevance in the working world. Graduates of the programme go on to careers in many varied fields where language use is of paramount importance – for example, teaching, speech and language therapy, journalism, marketing and PR, publishing, management and administration – as well as to do postgraduate research. Research, ICT, information and academic literacy skills are embedded in modules throughout the programme, enabling you to acquire, develop and apply skills valuable for future workplace contexts.

The subject area holds a fortnightly Colloquium Series during term time, to which we invite guest lecturers who are working on research of relevance to modules being offered in the current semester, and ask them to prepare their talks for an audience composed primarily of students. This provides you with the opportunity to hear about research issues and methods from specialists, including members of our own team, whose work you will be reading about in class.

The programme is supported by a specialist Linguistics Lab, where you can analyse speech using digital software, and by the creative use of web-based teaching and learning spaces, including a dedicated programme website. The programme aims to provide you with the tools required to apply linguistic theory to real world language in use. This is achieved by the careful scaffolding of student learning through beginning to study carefully selected or constructed examples of language in the first year of study, and increasing exposure to real language in the second and third year.

Another distinctive feature of this programme is the opportunity to apply to take the Cambridge English Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (CELTA) at no additional cost. This means that, in addition to knowledge about language, the acquisition of English and the use of English in global and multilingual contexts, successful applicants will also have the opportunity to acquire valuable practical teaching experience and graduate with an internationally recognised teaching qualification. Places will be awarded subject to a successful application and interview process.

## Admissions criteria

You must meet the minimum entry requirements which are published on the programme specific webpage.

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Accredited Prior \(Experiential\) Learning \(APL/APEL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

## Programme structure

Code	Level	Semester	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take <b>C or O</b>	non-compensatable or compensatable <b>NC or X</b>
CRW4001M	4	1	Forms of Narrative	20	C	X
LAL4001M	4	1	English Language and Linguistics	20	C	NC
LAL4003M	4	1	Language and Society	20	O	X
LAL4002M	4	1	Semantics and Pragmatics	20	O	X
LIT4003M	4	1	Writing, Research, and Literature	20	O	X
CRW4002M	4	1	Introduction to Creative Writing	20	O	X
CRW4003M	4	2	Writing to Order	20	C	X
LAL4004M	4	2	Descriptive Grammar of English	20	C	NC
LIT4005M	4	2	Theorising Literature: Power and Identity	20	O	X
LIT4006M	4	2	Canonicity	20	O	X
LAL4006M	4	2	Multilingualism	20	O	X
LAL4005M	4	2	Phonetics	20	O	X
LAB4015M	4	2	British Sign Language	20	O	X
<b><sup>1</sup> You must choose either CRW5002M or CRW5003M</b>						
CRW5002M	5	1	Writing Fiction	20	O <sup>1</sup>	X
CRW5003M	5	1	Writing Reality: Creative Non-Fiction	20	O <sup>1</sup>	X
<b><sup>2</sup> You must take ONE work-related learning (WRL) module from LAL5007M or CRW5001M.</b>						
<b><sup>6</sup> This module is optional for students who study abroad in semester 2.</b>						
LAL5007M	5	1	Language at Work	20	O <sup>2</sup>	X
CRW5001M	5	2	Working with Words: Publishing and Performance	20	O <sup>2</sup>	X
LAL5016M	5	2	Language at Work (Distance)	20	O <sup>6</sup>	X
<b><sup>3</sup> You must choose either CRW5004M or CRW5005M</b>						
CRW5004M	5	2	Writing Poetry	20	O <sup>3</sup>	X
CRW5005M	5	2	Scriptwriting	20	O <sup>3</sup>	X
LAL5001M	5	1	Linguistic Diversity in the Classroom	20	O	X
LAL5002M	5	1	Applied Phonetics and Phonology	20	O	X
LAL5003M	5	1	World Englishes	20	O	X
LAL5005M	5	1	Language, Gender and Sexuality	20	O	X
LAL5006M	5	1	Analysing Texts	20	O	X

LIT5002M	5	1	Adaptations	20	O	X
LIT5007M	5	1	Science Fiction for Survival	20	O	X
LAL5008M	5	2	Language and Literacy	20	O	X
LAL5009M	5	2	Psycholinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5010M	5	2	Sociolinguistics	20	O	X
LAL5012M	5	2	Forensic Linguistics	20	O	X
LIT5005M	5	2	Conflicting Words	20	O	X
CRW6004M	6	2	Contemporary Writing 2: Literary and Publishing Cultures Now	20	C	X
<b><sup>4</sup> You must choose either CRW6005M or LAL6010M</b>						
CRW6005M	6	1&2	Creative Writing Dissertation Project	40	C <sup>4</sup>	NC
LAL6010M	6	2	Dissertation	40	C <sup>4</sup>	NC
<b><sup>5</sup> You can choose either CRW6003M or CRW6002M</b>						
CRW6003M	6	1	Contemporary Writing 1: Innovation and Experimentation	20	O <sup>5</sup>	X
CRW6002M	6	1	Writing Genres	20	O <sup>5</sup>	X
LAL6001M	6	1	TESOL Theories and Methods	20	O	X
LAL6002M	6	1	English Accents and Dialects	20	O	X
LAL6003M	6	1	Attitudes to Language	20	O	X
LAL6004M	6	1	Language, Identities and Cultures	20	O	X
LAL6006M	6	1	Speech and Language Pathology	20	O	X
LAL6007M	6	1	Child Language Acquisition	20	O	X
LAL6008M	6	2	Reflections in Linguistics	20	O	X

All optional modules are subject to staffing and timetable availability each year.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the table above as non-compensatable. A non-compensatable module is one that must be passed at the relevant level (with a mark of 40) in order to progress.

## Creative Writing

### Programme aim(s)

The programme aims to:

- help you to become a better writer and a more informed reader;
- support you in understanding and analysing the connections between your own work and its literary and cultural contexts;
- provide you with an introduction to the creative industries and provide opportunities for the development of your professional skills;
- provide a supportive learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse set of learners;
- promote and develop a vibrant creative writing community as part of the York Centre for Writing through events, workshops and visiting speakers, and through partnerships with local and national arts organisations.

### Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

## **Level 4**

- 4.1 Demonstrate competence in the production of original creative writing
- 4.2 Create and use constructive feedback, as part of a process of editing and revision
- 4.3 Show an understanding of literary form and historical tradition
- 4.4 Differentiate the most important contexts for your own creative practice
- 4.5 Plan and create writing to a brief in professional or other contexts
- 4.6 Use research to develop your creative work and to inform your reflective process

## **Level 5**

- 5.1 Create and revise effective works of creative writing in specific forms
- 5.2 Apply an understanding of the importance of audience and register in producing writing for a particular readership
- 5.3 Employ effective language, showing technical proficiency in writing
- 5.4 Reflect critically on form, genre, language and other key contexts for your creative work
- 5.5 Demonstrate a critical awareness of the historical precedents and the contemporary dimensions of particular literary forms and genres
- 5.6 Operate effectively as a member of a team to collaborate in the production of creative work and/or professionally-oriented projects

## **Level 6**

- 6.1 Create written work that shows sophistication in thought and expression
- 6.2 Analyse your creative practice in relation to contemporary creative and academic contexts
- 6.3 Appraise genre traditions in relation to your own work
- 6.4 Apply critical insight and theoretical perspectives to literary works
- 6.5 Critically evaluate issues of proficiency, innovation and experimentation in relation to your own work.
- 6.6 Conduct independent research to devise an original piece of creative writing that shows an in-depth understanding of particular literary form(s) and genre(s)

## **Learning, teaching and assessment**

Creative Writing at YSJU is a practical and hands-on subject and your learning will be structured around a dynamic engagement with texts, as a writer and a reader. The programme structure will allow you to choose increasingly specialised modules to suit your writerly interests: every module and each level of study is designed to help you develop and refine a set of skills uniquely suited to your goals. The emphasis on the relationship between a wide range of creative, critical and professional skills – between reading and writing, listening and sharing, ideas and practice – defines our programme.

At each level of study, new and more advanced skills will be introduced and strengthened through continual practice. These fall into three broad but interlinked 'skillsets' of creative, critical and professional skills. The first involves the composition skills, techniques and craft you might expect from a degree in writing. Creative skills also include things like editing, creative problem-solving and the development of different creative projects. These are aided by critical thinking: your ability to analyse texts within theoretical and historical contexts, conduct research, and reflect critically upon your creative process will all be strengthened. Finally, you will develop professional skills by learning to work to specific briefs and deadlines, developing oral and written communication, and moving between self-management and effective teamwork. You will also have the chance to work on real-life publishing projects and get involved with literary events. All three of these skillsets are nurtured in conjunction with one another and throughout the degree.

In practical terms, your learning will involve a combination of working in timetabled classes, individual study, group work and one-to-one meetings with tutors. Within classroom-time, a typical week involves a range of settings. A large group session in a lecture hall will often be accompanied by smaller groups for seminars or workshops; and those sessions often involve even smaller group work for more focused discussion and feedback. The 'workshop' setting is an important and distinctive feature of creative writing study. As a traditional model for the study of writing, there are a number of ways a writing workshop might be set up or run. In the simplest terms, we think of it as a place where new work is created and shared. Your development as a writer will be inseparable from your development as a critic and reader, and your ability to offer constructive feedback is as important as your ability to take it on-board.

There are no exams, and your Creative Writing degree will be assessed through coursework. Across the degree, assignments come in a range of forms, to encourage the development of different writerly skills. The two most common modes of assessment, which are often linked, are the Creative Portfolio and Contextual Reflection. Many modules will require you to submit a portfolio of creative work for assessment. The writing for these portfolios will be compiled throughout the semester, from weekly assignments within and outside the classroom. This will allow you to choose from your drafts which pieces of writing you wish to develop and perhaps expanded for inclusion in your portfolio. The Contextual Reflection is your chance to reflect on the aims and process of writing your portfolio work, and to relate what you have written to the material covered by the module as well as other contexts that are important to you as a writer. This may mean discussion of sources of literary traditions and form, inspiration or research, or consideration of audience and genre. In every case, it means reflecting seriously and critically upon the creative process and the work you have done towards producing the portfolio.

We offer lots of opportunities for you to learn outside the classroom. The York Centre for Writing, is a hub for exciting writing events, projects and publications, and we collaborate with Valley Press, the York Literature Festival, and other community partners. Visitors include successful writers as well as industry specialists: publishers, editors, agents, publicity experts and literary organisers and activists.

## **English Language**

### **Programme aim(s)**

The programme aims to:

1. Enable you to become an independent and ethical (applied) linguist, able to work for social justice in changing global contexts
2. Enable you to be digitally literate and able to communicate professionally, drawing on sound evidence from linguistic theories and applied linguistics practice
3. Provide progressive opportunities for you to develop as a reflective and versatile learner
4. Foster in you a lasting interest and life-long enjoyment in the study of English Language and Linguistics
5. Provide you with the qualifications and skills to undertake further academic study and to compete successfully in a diverse employment market

### **Programme learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

#### **Level 4**

- 4.1 Handle, analyse and present data in an ethical way using appropriate digital tools.
- 4.2 Recognise and explain socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/or historical contexts of language use.
- 4.3 Describe and analyse grammatical structures of language using appropriate terminology.
- 4.4 Describe and analyse the sounds of language using appropriate terminology.

- 4.5 Source and interpret a range of academic literature to effectively communicate, adopting referencing conventions where appropriate.

### **Level 5**

- 5.1 Critically analyse and present naturalistic and/ or experimental data in an ethical way.
- 5.2 Identify and use appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- 5.3 Investigate and interpret socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/ or historical contexts of language use.
- 5.4 Communicate professionally, evidencing arguments through correctly referenced sources where appropriate.
- 5.5 Demonstrate an awareness of professional values.

### **Level 6**

- 6.1 Design and carry out an independent research study, presenting and critically analysing data in an ethical way.
- 6.2 Select and apply appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- 6.3 Investigate and critically evaluate socio-cultural, political, psychological, educational and/ or historical contexts of language use.
- 6.4 Appropriately adapt language to communicate professionally with a range of audiences both in writing and orally.
- 6.5 Construct a convincing argument, evidenced by critical engagement with appropriate sources.
- 6.6 Demonstrate professional and transferable skills.

## **Learning, teaching and assessment**

### **Level 4**

At level 4, you are introduced to a wide range of learning situations, including formal lectures, workshops, seminars, and tutorial support. You are also introduced to a range of assessment types, which are outlined below.

From your first weeks at university, you are engaged with information literacy, which is embedded in all level 4 modules. The delivery of these skills sessions is supported by the programme team, the Study Skills team and our Academic Liaison Librarian. These key colleagues contribute to a range of our modules, including the compulsory for award module LAL4001M. You are also assigned an Academic Tutor, who will meet with you at least once each semester.

At level 4, we make use of 'small stakes' assessments, which are designed to engage you throughout the semester. For example, in LAL4004M, you will complete a weekly online quiz which requires you to engage with the set reading. Assessment is varied, including a class test, online tests and postings, as well as oral presentations, essays, and data analysis tasks. Group oral presentations take place in both compulsory for award modules, as a way of ensuring that you are exposed to this crucial employability skill in a supported way from the start of your programme. In the first instance, this is a formative presentation, with the opportunity for you to receive feedback on and reflect upon your performance. There is an examination at the end of level 4, for LAL4004M.

You are encouraged to use your fellow students as a resource, as well as benefitting from the expertise of staff. The programme website supports the culture of a learning community, and you are introduced, at the outset, to its functionality. Peer and self-assessment both feature in level 4 modules.

Choices at Level 4 are limited because of the need to provide a basic 'toolkit' for linguistic study, which will underpin study at level 5. We value language learning extremely highly, and recognise its potential for enabling you to apply your new linguistic skills to a language other than English. However, it is known that students are likely to come with different ideas and experiences of previous language learning. For this

reason, there is some choice in Semester 2, with the opportunity to study LAB4015M *British Sign Language* or to take the Linguistics module, *Multilingualism*, LAL4006M.

### **Level 5**

At level 5, a range of learning situations is available to you across a number of modules. Some modules are entirely workshop based, while others continue the lecture/seminar approach. At this level, you will complete the compulsory module *Language at Work* where you will be encouraged to consider the skills you have and how these could apply in the workplace.

Beyond the compulsory module, you can exercise choice across level 5, opting for those areas in which you see interest value and a fruitful knowledge base for your future development.

Work at level 5 is characterised by more contexts where you determine the direction of your work. This may be, for example, where tutors ask you to find your own data to analyse, or set up your own research direction within materials provided. Research skills are embedded within modules; for example, work on ethics, project design and argumentation skills as well as training in the use of specialist software in some modules. The presentation of your work is expected to be more professional, and your oral presentations more accomplished.

You may choose to apply for international exchange for one semester at level 5. Where you elect to study abroad in semester 2, you may take the distance version of our work experience module. In some cases, students are able to take up opportunities for work experience for academic credit, such as through the completion of the SMILE programme (teaching English in schools) available at one of our partner institutions in Spain.

### **Level 6**

Skills and subject knowledge introduced at level 4 and enhanced at level 5 are consolidated at level 6. You are expected to be maximally self-reliant and to learn how to use your tutors as one resource among many. In terms of subject knowledge, you are expected to be able to see some of the limitations of theoretical approaches, while also using knowledge gained over the previous two years to problem-solve and critically evaluate different linguistic phenomena. Research skills are increasingly present in modules, corresponding to project work concerning both written and spoken data undertaken at level 6, for example in LAL6002M and LAL6001M.

You will be supported in your dissertation by your supervisor, including in research skills where appropriate. You will also present your dissertation research to an audience as part of the assessment for this module. In LAL6008M, you will also carry out the independent reflective portfolio, drawing on tutorial support to enable you to make connections between aspects of your undergraduate programme. You will receive tutorial support in developing research skills for dissertations and project work.

Level 6 offers you more career orientation through modules that have a direct application to a number of working contexts, for example, LAL6001M and LAL6003M. There are additional opportunities for career development outside credit bearing modules. Digital and communication skills, as key graduate attributes, are focused on in the assessment strategies for LAL6008M. You are encouraged to write academically strong pieces of work in an accessible way, as well as to reflect on your experience across the programme, drawing out for yourself the transferrable skills that you have developed.

## **Progression and graduation requirements**

The University's [general regulations for](#) undergraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.



## **Internal and external reference points**

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)

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*Date written / revised: 19/7/19*

*Programme originally approved:*