

Module code: MOD007461	Version: 4 Date Amended: 18/Jul/2026
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1. Module Title
Introduction to Imaginative Writing

2a. Module Leader
Alison MacLeod

2b. School
Cambridge School of the Creative Industries

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
4

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:			

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module introduces you to techniques for developing and sustaining creative writing and teaches you how to practice these techniques in your own short fiction, poetry and dramatic writing. There is an emphasis on analysing imaginative texts to understand what makes them effective for different audiences and on practical writing exercises. Practical work addresses the processes, content, structure and formal features of imaginative writing genres. You will be given guidance on making use of journals and notebooks, on reading widely to inform creative writing practice and on engaging in constructive criticism. As the module progresses, you will explore the special techniques and conventions of writing short fiction, poetry and dramatic writing.

Using critical skills developed through wide reading and from workshop analysis, you will re-draft your own work and produce a critical commentary evaluating the creative processes that you have pursued, analysing specific techniques used in your portfolio of imaginative writing, and identifying areas for future development.

6b. Outline Content

- Analysis of imaginative texts to identify effective writing techniques.
- Creative writing practice in short fiction, poetry and dramatic writing.
- Consideration of audience.
- Presentation of work to fellow students, offering and receiving constructive criticism.
- Maintaining reading journals and writing notebooks.
- Redrafting of creative work following formative feedback.
- Critical evaluation of creative processes and finished works.

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None.

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate in your creative practice an understanding of a range of techniques and the conventions of imaginative writing genres;
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Analyse imaginative texts in close detail to identify strategies deployed in published and landmark work;
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Practice some of the techniques of imaginative writing in your own fiction, poetry and writing for performance, responding to critique to improve your work;
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Evaluate your work with respect to considerations of audience and genre;
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Present and/or perform your work with care and confidence;
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Identify strategies for developing and sustaining your own creativity.

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-6	Trimester 1: 2-hour sessions per week combining mini-lectures and seminars/ workshops.
Other teacher managed learning	24	1-6	Trimester 2: 2-hour sessions per week combining mini-lectures and seminars/ workshops.
Student managed learning	252	1-6	Reading and writing preparation
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	40 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 words coursework consisting of a Prose Portfolio of imaginative prose writing (1500 words) and a reflective commentary (500 words)					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Coursework	1-6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 words coursework consisting of a Poetry Portfolio (1500 words equivalent) and a reflective commentary (500 words)					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
012	Coursework	1-6	30 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 words coursework consisting of a Playwrighting Portfolio (1500 words) and a reflective commentary (500 words)					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]