

The Master of Arts in Creative Writing 2017 (CREW 591 / CREW 592 Creative Writing Portfolio)

The MA in Creative Writing is a one-year full time graduate research degree, which gives recognition to work in creative writing. The MA does not teach a specific set of predetermined skills; rather, it encourages writers to identify and articulate, as appropriate, their own distinctive voices in their chosen medium. The MA in Creative Writing is offered in two distinct streams, Writing for the Page (CREW 591) and Scriptwriting (CREW 592). The 2016 Writing for the Page programme will be jointly directed by **Emily Perkins and Chris Price**. The Scriptwriting programme is directed by **Ken Duncum**.

WRITING FOR THE PAGE

The aim of the Writing for the Page stream of the MA is to develop the literary skills and imaginative capacity of talented new writers of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction through a programme of workshops, portfolio supervision, and complementary reading. This stream offers 20 places in two separate workshop groups. The two workshop groups will meet jointly for special events, including guest writer visits and masterclasses. By the end of the year each student will submit, as a final portfolio, a book-length work of literature, of publishable standard.

SCRIPTWRITING

The aim of the Scriptwriting stream of the MA is to develop the craft skills and imaginative capacities of talented new writers through a programme of workshops, industry placements and collaborations, portfolio supervision, and complementary reading and viewing. It is not restricted to a single performance medium (film and television screenwriters will work alongside others who are writing primarily for stage and radio). By the end of the year each student will submit, as a final portfolio, a full-length script to third-draft standard.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry to the MA in Creative Writing is competitive: only ten places are available in Scriptwriting, and twenty in Writing for the Page. To be considered you will need normally to have a university degree, in any subject. You must also submit a 10-to-20-page writing sample with your application, which will be central in deciding course admissions. Your writing sample should demonstrate your ability to write in the genre or medium in which you intend to specialise.

Applications for the Scriptwriting stream may include audio-visual material but not as a replacement for your writing sample. If you wish to apply for both streams, you must submit two separate applications.

All application material must be submitted as part of your Victoria online enrolment by **1 November 2016**. We will advise you of the outcome before Christmas 2016.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MODERN LETTERS

Victoria University, P O Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand

ENQUIRIES: Tel +64-4-463-6854 Fax +64-4-463-6865 Email modernletters@vuw.ac.nz

Website www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters/

COURSE FEES

Current tuition fees can be found here:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters/study/postgraduate-programmes/postgrad-ma/crew-591> (Page stream) and here:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters/study/postgraduate-programmes/postgrad-ma/crew-591> (Script stream).

Domestic students can calculate your fees or find a full breakdown, including levies, on Victoria's Fees page: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/fees.aspx>

International students can download fee and insurance details here:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/international/planning/downloads/fees/Fees.pdf>

ELEMENTS OF THE MA PROGRAMME

Workshop: Each week you will attend a three-hour workshop. At workshops a range of exercise work is presented and discussed, and you present for discussion your own portfolio work-in-progress.

Reading Programme: You are required to read and/or view extensively in an area related to your writing project, usually following an individually tailored programme. You report either in two formal 3000-word essays or through an extensive Reading Journal which you keep throughout the year.

Reading Programme Meeting: This weekly meeting is an opportunity for the discussion of literary, craft or industry issues and of works and authors from individual reading lists. It provides a forum for guest visits by writers and industry professionals. During the year each member of the class leads a seminar relating to an aspect of their reading/viewing list or their portfolio project.

Portfolio: Although you will discuss your portfolio work at workshop meetings, you will also be assigned a supervisor, with whom you will meet regularly. As against the diversity of views you are likely to meet in workshops, your supervisor provides the response of a single, continuing reader. Your supervisor will respond to your work as you write it and will act as one of your final readers when the folio is submitted.

Industry Placements: Each student in the scriptwriting stream of the MA will also complete about 40 hours of industry placement. Arrangements will be negotiated at the beginning of the academic year, but please note that placements will normally be organised for the June/July mid-year break.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment for the MA in Creative Writing is based entirely on the final portfolio. Three examiners will provide written reports on your work. Before you graduate, a hardbound copy of your portfolio must be deposited in the Victoria University library, thus becoming part of the university's record of its research activities. The hardbound copy must be accompanied by an identical electronic version. You can choose to make this version publicly available, or temporarily or permanently restricted.

TIMETABLE

Classes meet twice a week from late February / early March until October. Attendance is compulsory. The specific timetable for each stream is confirmed early in the year but there are no

meetings during university breaks or study / exam periods. Trimester dates are available at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates.aspx>.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Contact the Scholarships Office for information on relevant general postgraduate scholarships, including deadlines: Tel +64-4-463-5113 or visit <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/scholarships/>.

Note that the deadlines for general postgraduate scholarship applications normally coincide with, or precede, the MA application deadline of 1 November each year. Scholarship applicants are considered pending acceptance to the MA programme.

Completing MA in Creative Writing students may apply for one of up to six annual project scholarships at the end of the course, including the Jean Squire and Michael Hirschfeld Project Scholarships. See <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters/study/scholarships-prizes.aspx>.

PRIZES

The Adam Foundation Prize in Creative Writing is awarded to the author of the best portfolio in the Writing for the Page stream. The Biggs Poetry Prize is awarded to recognise the potential of a graduating poet. The David Carson-Parker Embassy Prize in Scriptwriting is awarded to the author of the best portfolio in the Scriptwriting stream. The Brad McGann Filmwriting Award is awarded to recognise the potential of a graduating film scriptwriter. More details:

<http://www.fis.org.nz/BreakOut/vuw/schols.phtml?prizes>

HOW TO APPLY

The MA in Creative Writing is a limited entry programme and all applications will go through a selection process after the application deadline. We recommend that prospective applicants visit the 'How to Apply' and 'Postgraduate – MA in Creative Writing' pages of our website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/modernletters>.

The application deadline is 1 November each year.

Enrol online: www.victoria.ac.nz/enrol. Enrolment opens 1 October for courses and programmes in the following year. For help with CREW online enrolment difficulties, contact Rosemary Hanna: rosemary.hanna@vuw.ac.nz or 0800 842 867, option 1 and request extension 5013. Alternatively, you can contact Victoria's Student Recruitment and Course Advice: 0800 842 867 or course-advice@vuw.ac.nz.

You will need to submit the following application material as part of your enrolment:

1. A literary and/or professional CV detailing any work previously published, performed or produced, relevant courses taken, prizes or scholarships won, relevant writing and industry experience etc.
2. A one-page description of the project you hope to work on for your portfolio.
3. An indication of what you think will be most appropriate for your reading programme. This could take the form of a list of authors. (Remember that this

commits you to nothing; details of individual reading programmes will be settled only after admissions to the MA are decided.)

4. A 10-to-20-page writing sample. This will be central to the selection process. **The writing sample must be your own original work.** Any inclusions from other sources, such as collage or found work, must be attributed appropriately.

Please note: if you choose to submit **audio-visual material** in support of a Scriptwriting application, this must be clearly marked 'MA CREW support material' and delivered or posted to:

Attn: Rosemary Hanna

Enrolments Office

(Level 1, Hunter Building, Victoria's Kelburn campus)

Victoria University

PO Box 600

Wellington 6140

If you have NOT previously enrolled at Victoria, the Enrolments Office will also require **certified copies of your academic transcripts and passport or birth certificate.** Scanned copies can be uploaded as part of your online application. However, if you are accepted into the programme, you will then need to post or deliver copies certified by a Justice of the Peace, Solicitor or Notary Public. These must reach the Enrolments Office by **10 January 2017.** Do not send original documents, as they may not be returned.

- **All application material must be received by the deadline: 1 November 2016.**
- Enrolments will confirm by email that your enrolment has been received. The IIML will then email you to confirm when your application material has been received by its selection panel.
- All applications for this limited entry course will go through a selection process. **Applicants will be advised of the outcome before Christmas 2016.**