

## **Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing**

### **1 Background**

The Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing is designed to create a two-year combined Masters course incorporating the current Master of Creative Writing and the MA (Editing and Communications). The combining of these two programs will give students a combined two-year postgraduate degree in creative writing, publishing and editing. Bringing the two programs together will provide creative writing students with a vocational qualification and will allow publishing and editing students to take creative writing subjects as part of their professional development. The degree demonstrates the links and shared skills between writer, editor and publisher as well as between fiction and non-fiction writing. Students will enter the course on the basis of a 70% pass in their three-year undergraduate degree. On completion of the two-year Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing, students with a 70% average pass will be eligible to apply for entry to a PhD.

The Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing combines the strengths of two existing postgraduate courses, allowing students to achieve both creative and vocational goals. The MA (Editing and Communications) (102EG) is a very successful program that has recently completed its third full year of operation and has been highly praised by its triennial review panel. The Master of Creative Writing (421AA) is due to be reviewed in March 2006. The MCW is a non-vocational program and has a smaller cohort of students than the MA (E&C). Allowing students to choose a combination of subjects from the two streams will strengthen both programs, attracting new students as well as giving students from each program the option of taking new subjects. Bringing the two together will provide creative writing students with a vocational qualification and will allow publishing and editing students to take extra creative writing subjects as part of their professional development. Both the existing courses will also continue independently.

It is currently difficult for creative writing courses to demonstrate their vocational relevance. By combining the two degrees it is possible to demonstrate the links and shared skills between writer, editor and publisher as well as between fiction and non-fiction writing.

The proposed program represents an opportunity for the University of Melbourne to set a new benchmark in establishing a nexus between two closely related but hitherto distinct fields of study. Postgraduate publishing studies programs have traditionally tended to be available only to industry insiders, especially those employed in the book publishing industry, while creative writing has tended to be viewed as a non-vocational field. Increasingly, however, as new communications technologies have changed the very definition of publishing, publishing studies programs have been opened up to students from a range of disciplines. At the same time, digitisation has blurred the distinctions between writing and editing, creating many new employment options, especially for writers with editorial expertise.

The University of Melbourne has already positioned itself on the leading edge of change in this field by establishing a very successful postgraduate publishing studies program that is open to students from outside the publishing industry, narrowly defined, and has a strong emphasis on publishing in a digital milieu. The proposed combined program represents a logical extension of that initiative, and has the potential to open up new options for creative activity on the part of students who are principally engaged in writing, as well as giving publishing students the opportunity to extend their knowledge of creative writing theory and practice.

### **2 Course/Program Objectives**

Students who complete the course are expected to have:

- completed a significant research project as either practice or theory or a combination of both;
- developed flexible and sophisticated strategies for problem-solving, researching, writing and thinking critically in creative, editing and publishing projects;

- advanced knowledge of editorial principles and methods including detailed understanding of the use of computers in editing and publishing for print and digital media;
- acquired detailed knowledge of effective communication strategies and sound knowledge of the commercial and global organisation and operation of the publishing industries, with particular reference to Australia and the Asia Pacific region;
- developed an understanding of print production and design including a knowledge of the history of print culture;
- an understanding of ethical and legal standards in the creative writing, publishing and editing disciplines;
- developed capacity for critical evaluation and creative self-awareness;
- a respect for communication, support, co-operation, constructive criticism and intellectual integrity within the discipline of creative writing.

### **3 Entry Requirements**

For entry to the 200 point Masters degree, a relevant undergraduate degree with an average of at least 70% plus documented experience in writing, editing or publishing. All applicants will need to submit a 3000 word creative writing folio.

### **4 Course/Program Structure**

First year (100 pts) of the two year program (200 pts):

*Compulsory Subjects (totalling 37.5 pts)*

- 760-401 Research Methodology (semester 1) 12.5
- 106-471 Structural Editing (semester 2) 12.5
- 106-473 Editorial English (semester 1, repeated semester 2) 12.5

First year elective subjects (a minimum of 25 pts must be taken from each area of study in addition to the compulsory subjects above)

#### Creative Writing

Code	Title	Semester	Credit Points
760-411	Critical Studies Culture & Creative Arts	1	12.5
760-421	Diaries/Journals and Autobiography	2	12.5
760-429	Writing through Character	1	12.5
760-450	Reading Australian Writing	2	12.5
106-406	Contested Sites	NA	12.5
106-421	Scripts Wanted: Any Medium	2	12.5
106-427	Writing Before & Beyond the Image	1	12.5
106-433	Genre Interventions	NA	12.5
106-451	Writing Nature	1	12.5
106-472	Writing Genealogies of Place	2	12.5

#### Publishing and Editing

106-474	The Contemporary Publishing Industry	1	12.5
106-477	Writing and Editing for the Internet	2	12.5
106-518	Print Production and Design	1	12.5

Students must successfully complete all requirements of the first year of the program before commencing the second year.

Second year (100 pts) of the two-year program (100 pts)

*Compulsory subjects*

A thesis subject (double semester subjects)

Either	760-553 Minor Thesis - Creative Writing	50
Or	106-531 Publishing & Communications thesis	37.5

*Second-year elective subjects (a minimum of 25 points must be taken in each subject area in addition to the compulsory subjects):*

Code	Title	Semester	Credit Points
<u>Creative Writing</u>			
760-433	Arts Law	1	12.5
760-510	Creative Writing Advanced Workshop	2	12.5
760-512	Research for the Creative Writer	1	12.5
760-513	Writing the Unconscious	1	12.5
760-520	Text, Time and Space	2	12.5
760-528	Advanced Arts Law	2	12.5
<u>Publishing and Editing</u>			
106-513	History of Books and Reading	1	12.5
106-514	The Publishing Industry and Globalisation	2	12.5
106-516	Advanced Digital Editing & Publishing	1	12.5
106-517	Advanced Editing A: Magazines	NA	12.5
106-518	Print Production and Design	1	12.5
106-524	Advanced Book Editing & Publishing	2	25
106-525	Advanced Magazine Editing & Publishing	1	25
106-526	Ethical & Legal Issues	1	12.5
106-527	Advanced Professional Editing B	NA	12.5

## **5 Availability of Course**

The course is available on a full-time basis from semester 1, 2007. It will be available to fee-paying domestic and international students.