# Programme Specification ARO 034a

## Section 1 Key Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awarding Body</th>
<th>University of Stirling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Institution</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Name</td>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award</td>
<td>MLitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Arts and Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division (if applicable)</td>
<td>Literature and Languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCAS Code (UG only)</td>
<td>TXX43-CRW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme Code</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mode of Study</td>
<td>Full Time ☒  Part Time ☒  (if both please provide two Degree Programme Tables in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location/Method of Study</td>
<td>On Campus – UK ☒  International ☐ Where:  Online ☐  Blended ☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission Points</td>
<td>September ☒  January ☐  Other (if more than one entry point please provide a Degree Programme Table for each in the Outline Programme Structure)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Programme</td>
<td>Full-time: 12 months. Part-time: 27 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCQF Level</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Credit Value</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS Credit Value</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Professional Body Accreditation (all relevant accreditations to be listed) | Name of accrediting body: N/A  
Required for programme: Yes/No (delete as appropriate)  
Date of Accreditation: XX / XX / 20XX  
Date of Renewal: XX / XX / 20XX |
| Programme Director  | Dr Liam Bell                               |
| Advisor of Studies  | Dr Liam Bell                               |
| Programme Approved  | 01 / 12 / 2010                             |
| Last Updated        | 14 / 08 / 2018                             |
Section 2 Overview

PROGRAMME SUMMARY
To allow students to make substantial development as creative writers, through directed private practice, participation in workshop discussion and peer analysis and specialist study of chosen genres. The course will balance ‘creative’ and academic aspects. Students will develop their own working practice, become aware of contemporary literature, and learn about methods of publication and potential audiences.

Key Features of the Programme
- Practice-led: the programme centres around workshops focused on students’ own writing.
- Writers on writing: the course is taught by practicing writers, immersed in their own craft and process, across all forms of prose and poetry.
- Community: the programme seeks to foster a mutually supportive community within the cohort, through peer-review workshops, but also an extensive programme of visiting speakers and research skills sessions, which seek to connect the students with the wider literary landscape in Scotland by offering access to practitioners, publishers, funding bodies and the like. As part of this provision, we have opportunities for collaboration, performance and dissemination of creative work.

PROGRAMME AIMS
On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

1. Evidence a knowledge of the ‘creative process’, including editing and drafting skills, through production of pieces of creative writing across a variety of forms.
2. Show an ability to reflect on your own writing and creative practice, particularly with regard to drafting, editing, and the wider literary context.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the pathways for dissemination and collaboration for your creative work, particularly as it relates to the publishing and literature community landscape in Scotland.
4. Effectively communicate your constructive criticism of creative work, both your own work and the work of others, in a way that facilitates further improvements in aspects such as technique, structure and voice.
5. Place your work in context, both in terms of the literary marketplace and with regard to the texts which have influenced your progression as a writer.
6. Read a creative text with a ‘writer’s eye’; looking for aspects such as technique, structure and voice so as to better reflect on your own writing.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?
On successful completion of this programme, you should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding:
- Critically evaluate the field; evidencing knowledge and understanding of creative working practices, the contemporary literary scene, a range of literary forms, and considerations of audience.

Subject-specific skills and other attributes:
- Demonstrate skills as writers, including the deployment of specific literary techniques to achieve desired effects, and the value of peer-review in the editing/re-writing process.

Generic skills (e.g. information skills, communication skills, critical, analytical and problem solving abilities) and other attributes:
- Demonstrate a wide range of skills relating to communication, listening and diplomacy, self-analysis, and responding constructively to feedback.

Intellectual, Practical and Transferable Skills and other graduate attributes:
1. Apply a variety of creative writing techniques to your own writing and in analysis of texts.
2. Reflect on your own practice and creative process.
3. Plan and manage extended pieces of writing/research under supervision; building to a professional standard.
4. Structure and communicate your ideas effectively, in both spoken and written English.
5. Gather, evaluate and organize information from multiple sources, including from peers, and approach that information in an ethical way.
6. Deliver oral and written presentations confidently and professionally to a variety of audiences.

Values and Attitudes:
1. Openness to constructive criticism and self-reflection as the means to develop as a writer.
2. Striving for excellence; through attention to detail and development of creative abilities.
3. Ambition to contribute to the literary world.
4. Ethical and professional behavior.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

The main component of teaching is peer-review workshops, with students expected to contribute formative pieces of writing for discussion and, indeed, to contribute to the discussion of the writing of the other students. This builds technique and understanding of your own writing, the analysis of other texts, and communication and presentation skills. There is also a reflective element to the teaching and assessment, asking students to examine their own creative writing practice and process alongside that of other writers. Students will also explore literary texts with a ‘writer’s eye’; looking for aspects such as technique, structure and voice in order to better understand their own creative writing. This is augmented by an extensive programme of visiting speakers and research skills sessions, which seek to connect the students with the wider literary landscape in Scotland by offering access to practitioners, publishers, funding bodies and the like. As part of this provision, we have opportunities for collaboration, performance and dissemination of creative work.

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessment and Assessment Criteria
Assessment is by a variety of creative pieces, reflective essays, literary essays and reflective journals, with an emphasis on the first of these. A document with Creative Writing Marking Criteria is posted on Canvas.

Feedback on Assessment
You will receive feedback on coursework within 3 weeks of completion of the assessment. Feedback is usually provided electronically on formal coursework. Feedback and Guidance sessions with teaching staff are available on all modules. These provide regular opportunities to discuss feedback further. More information about feedback on assessment can be found here;
http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/assessment/

Assessment Regulations
If you would like to know more about the way in which assessment works at the University of Stirling, please see the full version of the assessment regulations at:
Postgraduate – Taught

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Outline Programme Structure
The list below shows compulsory and option modules for this programme. Option modules are revised over time and, in some cases, will be dependent upon pre-requisite and/or co-requisites being taken.
More information about these requirements can be found in the relevant Module Descriptors. The options available each year can be subject to change due to student demand and availability of teaching staff.

- Where an “Option list” is specified, you have a choice of which module to take at this point in the degree programme and these choices are listed below

### Full-time

Total full-time credit value = 180  
Compulsory credits = 160  
Option credits = 20

| Autumn          | CRWPP06 - Writer’s Workshop A (20) | CRWPP10 - Writer’s Workshop B (20) | 20 credits of: CRWPP08 - Writing Poetry (20)  
|                 |                                  |                                  | or CRWPP12 - The Art of Fiction (20) |
| Spring          | CRWPP11 - Writer’s Workshop C (20) | CRWPP16 - The Writing Life (20)   | CRWPP17 - Research Skills for Writers (20) |
| Summer          | CRWPP05 - Dissertation (60)       |                                  |                                  |

### Part-time  
**Year 1**

Total year 1 credit value = 80  
Compulsory credits = 60  
Optional credits = 20

| Autumn 17/18    | CRWPP10 - Writer’s Workshop B (20) | 20 credits of: CRWPP08 - Writing Poetry (20)  
|                 |                                  | or CRWPP12 - The Art of Fiction (20) |
| Spring 17/18    | CRWPP16 - The Writing Life (20)   | CRWPP17 - Research Skills (20) |

### Part-time  
**Year 2**

Total year 2 credit value = 100  
Compulsory credits = 100  
Optional credits = 0

| Autumn 18/19    | CRWPP06 - Writer’s Workshop A (20) | CRWPP11 - Writer’s Workshop C (20) |
| Spring/Summer 18/19 | CRWPP05 - Dissertation (60) |                                  |

### READING LIST

Required and Recommended Reading for the Programme

*Creative Writing: a workbook with readings*, Linda Anderson  
*On Writing*, AL Kennedy
Section 3 Student Support

SUPPORT FOR STUDENT LEARNING

Induction
You will receive an induction during the first days of your programme. This includes a range of social events, information sessions and activities to help you orientate yourself at Stirling and access the services available to you. These are opportunities to meet staff and other students from across the university, in the Faculty and on the programme.

Study Skills Support
Student Learning Services (SLS) are committed to providing comprehensive guidance on all aspects of effective and efficient learning. The ultimate aim of the service is to enable you to make the most of your academic studies at the University and for you to become an independent, successful learner during your time at the University of Stirling. This is facilitated through collaborative work with experienced tutors and by offering a variety of courses, workshops and tutorials.

All students, whatever stage of their academic studies, are welcome to use Student Learning Services. However the service may be particularly beneficial:

- In your first two years of study.
- If you are making the transition from college to Higher Education.
- If you have been out of education for some time.

What SLS are able to do:

- Advise you on academic skills relevant to your studies at University.
- Help you consolidate your previous learning and develop new learning strategies.
- Advise on action-plans to potentially improve grades.
- Suggest practical solutions if you feel overwhelmed by assignment work.
- Help you gain confidence in the transition to Higher Education.

More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/student-learning-services/)

STEER
STEER is a University-wide peer support scheme linking in returning student "Captains" with new undergraduate or taught post-graduate "Crew" during their first year at Stirling.

The scheme aims to help you make the most of your time at the University, help new students - the Crew - settle in and realise the opportunities available to them. You can find out more information here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/steer/)
**Stirling Graduate School**
For Research Postgraduate Students the Stirling Graduate School as well as your own faculty will provide support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/current-pg-students/skills-development/)

**Academic and Pastoral Support**

**Adviser of Studies:** Advisers have an important role to play in enhancing your academic and personal development and are essential to ensuring you make the most of your time at university. Advisers provide a personalised point of contact for you to discuss academic concerns or queries within the academic community. The general purpose of the role is to provide more in-depth advice on the academic options available to you and on the academic policies and regulations within the University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/advisers/)

**Personal Tutor:** The role of a personal tutor is to help you feel part of the University community. They are a specific and consistent source of guidance, information and support for you throughout your studies. The tutor should be the your first formal point of contact for general academic guidance and pastoral support. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/tse/personal-tutor/)

**Support and Wellbeing:** At university you may face non-academic issues where you need some expert help or guidance. There are lots of ways we can help you in your day-to-day life at University. Student Support Services provide a range of high-quality services to assist you during the course of your studies, help prepare you for life after graduation. We aim to enhance the student experience and help you to get the most out of your time at University. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/support-and-wellbeing/)

**Student Union:** you can also access support through the Students’ Union, more information can be found here: [https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/](https://www.stirlingstudentsunion.com/representation/studentsupport/)

**Accessibility and Inclusion (A&I)**
A&I are committed to offering a service which is welcoming and supportive of the needs of all students. Our service takes into account the full range of needs you may have, in a wide variety of circumstances including - physical and mobility difficulties, sensory impairments, specific learning difficulties including dyslexia and autistic spectrum disorder as well as medical conditions and mental health difficulties. A&I can also support you if you have short-term, temporary impairments or other difficulties as a result of an accident, injury, illness or surgery. More information can be found here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/student-support/accessibility-&-inclusion-service/)

**Learning Resources**
You can find out more about the resources available to support your learning here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/campus-life/learning-support/)

**Section 4 Programme Evaluation and Enhancement**

**METHODS FOR EVALUATING AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Module Evaluation**
Module evaluations are carried out each year and are an important way of getting student feedback on the modules we teach. We aim to evaluate every module we teach in every semester. You can find out more here: [http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/](http://www.stir.ac.uk/registry/studentinformation/moduleevaluation/)

**Programme Review**
Programmes are reviewed annually and on a 5 yearly cycle. You can get involved in a variety of different ways; by completing module evaluations, becoming a course representative and attending Student Staff
Consultative Committees, or participating in the review process itself. You can find out more here: 
http://www.stir.ac.uk/academicpolicy/handbook/review-and-monitoring/

External Examiner(s)
Name of External Examiner: Dr Wayne Price
Institution: University of Aberdeen

Section 5 My Future

WHAT KIND OF CAREER MIGHT I GO ON TO?

What career avenues does this qualification open up to the student?

Students may go on to pursue a career in writing, in publishing, in teaching, in arts administration or in other roles within the literary sector. We have had several notable alumni go on to publish extensively and forge a career as a writer, and also alumni who have pursued academic careers (through PhD).

By the end of this programme you will have had the opportunity to develop Graduate Attributes and become:

**Connected**
- With your discipline(s) knowledge, understanding and skills with a range of complex real world issues
- with contributions from alumni, private, public and third sector to develop their employability skills
- with knowledge, experiences, and people providing different perspectives, to understand different cultures, beliefs and traditions
- and work with one another as an inclusive learning community and with the wider community
- and communicate effectively through digital and other media

**Innovative**
- through active and ethical research
- through independent critical and reflective thinking
- through identifying opportunities to improve what they do and taking action

**Transformative**
- through your intellectual sporting and cultural passion and excellence
- through sharing new perspectives and broadening horizons
- through being professional, adaptable and resilient and equipped to succeed in the global market place
- through being an active global citizen who is socially, culturally, and environmentally aware.

WHAT STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are currently no study abroad opportunities available.

WHAT PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?

There are currently no placement opportunities available.

WHAT FURTHER STUDY OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO ME?

Several of our graduates have gone on to study for a PhD in Creative Writing with us.

WHAT OTHER INFORMATION DO I NEED TO KNOW?
### Section 6 Admissions

#### HOW DO I ENTER THE PROGRAMME?

A minimum of a second class Honours degree (2.1 preferred) or equivalent in a relevant subject. Applicants without these formal qualifications but with significant appropriate/relevant work/life experience are encouraged to apply.

Applicants must supply a sample of their creative work: [Full guidelines for the writing sample](https://creativewritingstirling.wordpress.com/)

If English is not your first language you must have one of the following qualifications as evidence of your English language skills:

- IELTS: 6.0 with 5.5 minimum in each skill
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE): Grade C
- Pearson Test of English (Academic): 54 with 51 in each component
- IBT TOEFL: 80 with no subtest less than 17

For more information go to [English language requirements](https://creativewritingstirling.wordpress.com/).

If you don’t meet the required score you may be able to register for one of our pre-sessional English courses. To register you must hold a conditional offer for your course and have an IELTS score 0.5 or 1.0 below the required standard. [View our range of pre-sessional courses](https://creativewritingstirling.wordpress.com/)