

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN CREATIVE WRITING

Brigham Young University

The Program

The BYU Creative Writing MFA is a two-year program requiring 26 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis writing designed to prepare students as writers and scholars and for careers in teaching and writing. BYU's English Department devotes all of its graduate resources to master's students, combining reasonable tuition with significant financial support. In addition to Creative Writing, graduate faculty provide depth in British and American literature and rhetoric and composition.

Most English master's students are LDS and come from the United States and Canada. We encourage applicants from a variety of undergraduate majors and institutions.

Admissions decisions are based on the strength of an applicant's writing samples, personal statement, recommendations, and GRE scores. Throughout the admissions process consideration is given to the perceived fit between student interest and faculty expertise.

Program Requirements

32 minimum credit hours, culminating in an oral defense of a creative thesis.

Required Courses

- Introduction to Graduate Studies
- Three graduate-level writing workshops
- Creative Writing Theory
- One additional workshop or course in a related field

Elective Courses

- 3 graduate-level courses (up to 3 hours may be taken outside the English Department)

Thesis

- English 699R (6 hours)
- The creative thesis is a substantial work of creative writing demonstrating knowledge and skill in the area of interest. The thesis includes a critical introduction.

Examination and Thesis Defense

- Oral examination on thesis and approved reading list of writers or topics.

Teaching Opportunities & Financial Aid

Most English graduate students are hired to teach introductory composition courses, for which they receive extensive and ongoing training. Several students also have the chance to teach advanced composition. The English Department offers teaching mentorships: paid, semester-long experiences teaching literature or creative writing alongside a faculty member.

Graduate students in English may receive the following types of financial aid:

- Instructorships in composition
- Research and teaching assistantships
- Tuition assistance
- Department scholarships
- Paid internships

A financial aid packet will be sent following acceptance.

Paid internships and research and teaching assistantships must be applied for separately.

Applications

Admission Requirements

- B.A. in English or equivalent*
- One upper-division course in literary theory (equivalent to BYU's English 451 or 452)
- GRE General Test

*Students without a B.A. in English must complete the following undergraduate English courses by the end of their first year in the MFA program: fundamentals of literary interpretation and criticism; one course each in early British, later British, and American literature; and one advanced research and writing seminar (such as BYU's English 495).

How to Apply

- Complete the BYU Graduate School Application (available online at www.byu.edu/gradstudies).
- Submit 3 letters of recommendation (preferably from English professors).
- Submit a statement of intent, including honors or awards received, your planned emphasis in the MFA program (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry), and your reasons for seeking an MFA in creative writing at BYU.
- Submit a sample research paper or other academic writing.
- Submit a creative writing sample in a single genre (fiction, nonfiction, or poetry): 20 pages of prose or 10 pages of poetry.
- Submit GRE General Test scores.

International Applicants should contact the BYU Office of International Services for application requirements.

Application Deadline: January 15

Contact Information

General Questions:

Graduate Secretary
English Department
4166 JFSB, BYU
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-8673

Application forms:

Office of Graduate Studies *or*
International Graduate Admissions
105 FPH, BYU
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-4091

Teaching Opportunities:

Composition Office
4110 JFSB, BYU
Provo, UT 84602
801-422-3565

About BYU

Brigham Young University offers an exceptional opportunity for the well-prepared graduate student seeking a challenging education in a faith-based community. Established and sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU is the largest privately-owned university in the United States.

