



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Creative Writing

Faculty of Arts

BFA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Information Session

NOVEMBER 19, 2021





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Structure of the BFA in CRWR Program

- Fine Arts Program in the Faculty of Arts
- We offer a closed studio program, which means the focus is on experiential learning – students learn to write by writing and in engaging with the writing process of others
- The studio is in the form of small writing workshops of up to 12 students
- Students provide the texts that are under discussion and peer review
- Aim is to provide technique-based feedback from one writer to another
- Requirements of the Major are 36 credits of 400-level CRWR workshop courses in at least 4 genres
- Program is designed to be completed over 2 years (3 courses per term)



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Multi-Genre Nature of Program

- We're a multi-genre program with an emphasis on genre cross-training
- Students do not specialize in one genre; rather we expect them to excel in a range of genres
- On the application form, students are asked to list any genres they're interested in ("primary" and "secondary") to ensure that within any cohort there is a full breadth of genre interests represented and that students are committed to working in more than one genre
- Students can apply in any genre and, once they're in the program, can take any genre
- Required to take courses in at least 4 genres
- Students are encouraged to explore a genre that is either new or challenging



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Eligibility

- There is no GPA requirement
- Students must have UBC status. Transfer students and Second Degree students must apply to UBC Enrolment Services by January 15, 2022, before submitting their CRWR application
- CRWR 200 or equivalent must be completed (if you are unsure about an equivalent course, please email crwr.undergrad@ubc.ca)
- Third Year status as of September 2022 (54 completed credits)
- Most students will apply during their second year of studies



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Application Process

- Application window: January 4 to February 28, 2022 for a September 2022 start date
- We have one application cycle per year and late applications will not be accepted
- There are three components for completing the application process:
 1. The online application form (accessed on the Apply section of our website)
 2. A cover letter (attached to the form)
 3. Two writing samples in two distinct genres (also attached to the form)
- Guidelines are posted on our website with full details on the application process, including font/page requirements for the writing samples
- Applications will be circulated to faculty readers who will assess the writing samples
- Applicants will be notified of decisions by May 2022
- Acceptance rate: each year, approx. 85 applications and accept 28-32 students (26%)



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Portfolio Requirements

- Two writing samples are required in the accepted genres
- Pay attention to the page/formatting guidelines for each genre
- Pieces can be from previous assignments
- Collaborative work will not be accepted
- No intake quotas for individual genres
- Instructors will not review portfolio before your application is submitted
- Submit your best work!



Genres

- Poetry
- New Media
 - Web series script
 - Podcast documentary or dramatic script (must be narrative)
 - Digital storytelling project
 - *We need to see the creative work itself, not an outline for a creative project. Check with us if you are unsure.*
- Writing for Children and Young Adults
- Creative Nonfiction
- Dramatic Writing for the Screen
- Dramatic Writing for the Stage
- Graphic Forms
- Fiction (including Speculative Fiction)
- Lyric Forms (second genre cannot be poetry)



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Advice on Cover Letter

- Your opportunity to tell us about who you are
- Why you want to pursue a Creative Writing Major
- What genres you are most interested in
- Your creative goals
- Your creative influences
- What you've enjoyed about the previous creative writing courses you've taken



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Advice on the Portfolio

- We are often asked: “How do I make my portfolio great?”
- There is no one strategy for putting your portfolio together; the writing matters the most
- Original, fresh voice
- Demonstrates that you care about writing, and that you’re proud of your work
- Submit your best work; work that you can really stand behind, that moves you
- Pay attention to the portfolio guidelines and page requirements
- We’re not looking for a certain type of story or genre. We have a diverse faculty reading the applications.
- Instructors cannot review portfolios before you submit them



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Any other Questions?

- Please type your questions into the Chat



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Thank you for joining us!

