



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

School of Creative Writing
Faculty of Arts

BFA IN CREATIVE WRITING

Information Session

NOVEMBER 21, 2022





Structure of the BFA in CRWR Program

- Fine Arts Program in the Faculty of Arts
- Closed studio program
 - focus is on experiential learning
 - students learn by writing and in engaging with the writing process of others
 - attention to craft and critical reading
- Small writing workshops of up to 12 students
- Requirements of the Major:
 - 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

- Multi-genre program with emphasis on genre cross-training
- Students can apply in any of the 9 genres listed on our Application Guidelines
- Applications include writing samples in 2 genres:
 - Primary Genre
 - Secondary Genre
- Once admitted, students can study any genre offered
- Students are encouraged to explore genres that are new or challenging



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Eligibility

- No GPA requirement
- Students must have UBC status. Transfer students and Second Degree students must apply to UBC Enrolment Services by January 15, 2023, 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 2023 (54 completed credits)
- Most students apply during their second year of studies



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Application Process

- Application window: January 9 to February 28, 2023 for a September 2023 start
- One application cycle per year / no late applications
- Four application components:
 1. The online application form (accessed on the Apply section of our website)
 2. A Personal Statement
 3. A manuscript of writing in a primary genre
 4. A manuscript of writing in a second genre
- Guidelines are posted on our website with full details on the application process.
- Applications are circulated to faculty readers who assess writing samples anonymously. Do not include your name on the statement or manuscript submission.
- Applicants will be notified of decisions by May 2023



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Manuscript Requirements

- Two writing samples in genres we teach
- Minimum page: 10 pages / sample
- 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 manuscripts before your application is submitted
- Submit your strongest work!



Genres We Teach

- Poetry
- New Media
- Writing for Children and Young Adults
- Creative Nonfiction
- Dramatic Writing for the Screen/TV
- Dramatic Writing for the Stage
- Graphic Forms
- Fiction (including Speculative Fiction)
- Lyric Forms (second genre cannot be poetry)



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Advice on Personal Statement

- Tell us about who you are—and want to become—as a writer
 - How your background and experiences have shaped your writing
 - Creative influences
 - What genres you are most interested in and why
 - What you've enjoyed about the previous creative writing courses you've taken
 - Accomplishments and goals
- Talk to us about how you learn from and with others
 - What experiences have prepared you to engage in the work of others and support their growth
 - What appeals to you about a workshop-based program
- We will be assessing your statement anonymously. Do not include your name.



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Advice on the Manuscript (Writing Samples)

We are often asked: “How do I make my manuscript great?”

- We are open to a wide range of stylistic and aesthetic approaches. We have a diverse faculty reading the applications.
- We are looking for:
 - Original, fresh voices
 - Awareness of genre and craft
 - Care and attention to detail
 - Potential to learn/thrive in our program
- Pay attention to the manuscript guidelines and page requirements
- Instructors cannot review manuscripts before you submit them.
- We will be assessing your manuscript anonymously. Do not include your name.



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Any other Questions?

- Please type your questions into the Chat



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Thank you for joining us!

