

2011-2012 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2011-2012 academic years, including the Fall Semester 2011, the Winter Semester 2012 and the Summer Semester 2012.

For your convenience the Graduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Graduate Calendar please refer to the Linking Guidelines.

The University is a full member of:

- The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

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Disclaimer

The Office of Graduate Studies has attempted to ensure the accuracy of this on-line Graduate Calendar. However, the publication of information in this document does not bind the university to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of studies, fees, or facilities as listed herein.

Limitations

The University of Guelph reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including any rule or regulation pertaining to the standards for admission to, the requirements for the continuation of study in, and the requirements for the granting of degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs.

The university will not be liable for any interruption in, or cancellation of, any academic activities as set forth in this calendar and related information where such interruption is caused by fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, restrictive laws or governmental regulations, actions taken by the faculty, staff or students of the university or by others, civil unrest or disobedience, Public Health Emergencies, or any other cause of any kind beyond the reasonable control of the university.

The University of Guelph reaffirms section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, marital status or family status.

The university encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of other under-represented groups.

Introduction

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90f31_e.htm. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes. Certain personal information is disclosed to external agencies, including the Ontario Universities Application Centre, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and Statistics Canada, for statistical and planning purposes, and is disclosed to other individuals or organizations in accordance with the Office of Registrarial Services Departmental Policy on the Release of Student Information. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Office of Registrarial Services at the University at (519) 824-4120 or see <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/registrar/index.cfm?index>.

Statistics Canada - Notification of Disclosure

For further information, please see Statistics Canada's web site at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca> and Section XIV Statistics Canada.

Address for University Communication

Depending on the nature and timing of the communication, the University may use one of these addresses to communicate with students. Students are, therefore, responsible for checking all of the following on a regular basis:

Email Address

The University issued email address is considered an official means of communication with the student and will be used for correspondence from the University. Students are responsible for monitoring their University-issued email account regularly.

Home Address

Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address with the University. Address changes can be made, in writing, through the Office of Graduate Studies.

Name Changes

The University of Guelph is committed to the integrity of its student records, therefore, each student is required to provide either on application for admission or on personal data forms required for registration, his/her complete, legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration, deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Confidentiality and Release of Student Information Policy Excerpt

The University undertakes to protect the privacy of each student and the confidentiality of his or her record. To this end the University shall refuse to disclose personal information to any person other than the individual to whom the information relates where disclosure would constitute an unjustified invasion of the personal privacy of that person or of any other individual. All members of the University community must respect the confidential nature of the student information which they acquire in the course of their work.

Complete policy at <http://www.uoguelph.ca/policies>.

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Creative Writing

The Master of Fine Arts (MFA) Program in Creative Writing is designed to prepare students for careers in creative writing, by exploring and developing their skills as writers, and providing them with a wide range of opportunities to connect with the arts and culture community. Critically acclaimed writers and literary professionals participate in the program as workshop instructors, mentors and visitors. Through its master classes, workshops and plenary courses, the MFA Program aims to assist new writers in locating their work in both a global and a national context. Students will pursue the program on a full-time basis. The program has been designed to facilitate completion within two years.

Administrative Staff

Director of SETS

Dr. Alan Filewod (425 MacKinnon, Ext. 53881)
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Graduate Faculty

Dionne Brand

BA, MA O.I.S.E. Toronto - Professor and University Research Chair

Judith Thompson

BA Queen's, Cert. National Theatre School - Professor

MFA Program

Admission Requirements

The normal minimum requirement for admission to the MFA Program is a baccalaureate degree, in an honours program or the equivalent, from a recognized degree-granting institution. There are no requirements as to the discipline in which the degree was earned. Successful applicants will be expected to have achieved an average standing of at least second-class honours (B-) in their last four semesters of study. A limited number of students, however, may be admitted to the MFA without having satisfied the degree requirement and/or academic standing requirements set out above if they are assessed as qualified to undertake graduate studies in creative writing on the basis of other experience and/or practice.

Admissions Portfolio

Applicants will be selected for admission to the MFA Program primarily on the basis of a portfolio and a letter of no more than three pages describing the applicant's aspirations as a writer and an indication of the genres in which he/she is most interested. The portfolio should be between 25 and 40 pages in length, double-spaced, and may contain published and/or unpublished work and/or work-in-progress. It must include a minimum of three separate works (or excerpts from separate works). Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit works in more than one genre, e.g., fiction and poetry. Considerations of balance over the program as a whole, with respect to genres in which applicants are particularly interested and demonstrate special strength, will have some impact on admission decisions.

Degree Requirements

Students will take one workshop and one plenary course in the first (Fall) semester of study; one workshop in the second (Winter) semester; the individual study course in the third (Summer) semester; and one workshop and a second plenary course in the fourth (Fall) semester. The remaining two semesters of the two-year program will be devoted to the thesis. With permission, MFA students may choose to take one or two courses at the University of Guelph - e.g., MA courses in the School of English and Theatre Studies. All students will be required to complete at least six semesters of study.

Plenary Courses

There are two Plenary courses, CRWR*6000 and CRWR*6010, and both are required courses for MFA students. Plenary courses will be offered on an alternate-year basis in the Fall semester, allowing students to take one in the Fall semester of their first year, and one in the Fall semester of their second year. These courses are intended in part to provide a forum for visiting writers and other literary professionals. Each course will also have a substantial component addressing practical matters associated with the progress of a writer's career.

Workshops

Students are required to take three workshops over the course of the program; the genres in which workshops will be offered are fiction, poetry, drama, and creative non-fiction. Students are also required to ensure through their selection of workshops that they work in a minimum of two separate genres and are strongly encouraged to take workshops that include work in at least three genres. The workshops will be strongly focused on writing, but each will also incorporate a substantial reading component.

Individual Study Course

The individual study course, required in the third (Summer) semester of the program, pairs each student with a mentor. It is intended to install within the curriculum a critical opportunity to address the variable learning needs of individual students. For the majority of students, it will be an intensive writing course, supplemented by a reading component that allows for additional work in the student's primary genre and offers the chance to build a body of work towards the thesis. For some students, it may be primarily a reading course, with practice in writing in relation to particular models, or provide an opportunity to develop a significant project in a secondary genre.

Thesis

The thesis is the single most important component of the MFA Program. Students should register for UNIV*7500 in each semester that they are writing their thesis. The thesis may be a novel, a book-length manuscript of poems, a collection of short stories, a full-length play or screenplay, or a work of creative non-fiction. The standard to be applied is that the thesis should not be a first draft but have undergone significant revision and be approaching publishable quality in the estimation of the examiners.

Courses

For courses without a semester designation the student should consult the Associate Coordinator or Assistant to the Associate Coordinator.

CRWR*6000 Plenary Course: Writers on Writing F [0.50]
This required plenary course addresses important historical and contemporary perspectives on creative writing as an art, a practice, and a profession. Readings, discussion and visits from writers and other literary professionals will help students to articulate effectively their own literary aesthetic and to develop professional skills.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only
CRWR*6010 Plenary Course: Writers in the World F [0.50]
This required plenary course addresses changing and conflicting ideas about the responsibilities of the writer in the world. Readings, discussion, and visits from writers and other literary professionals will help students to articulate effectively their own positions and to develop professional skills.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only
CRWR*6100 Poetry Workshop F-W [0.50]
The Poetry Workshop engages students in an intensive program of reading and writing work. The workshops will be strongly focused on writing and on responding to the work of students in the course with productive, constructive criticism. Students will have the opportunity to work closely with a nationally recognized poet to develop their own skills as poets and editors. Students are expected to read widely and to develop their understanding of the technical aspects of their craft.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only
CRWR*6200 Fiction Workshop F-W [0.50]
The Fiction Workshop engages students in an intensive program of reading and writing work. The workshops will be strongly focused on writing and on responding to the work of students in the course with productive, constructive criticism. Students will have the opportunity to work closely with a nationally recognized author to develop their skills as writers and editors. Students are expected to read widely and to develop their understanding of the technical aspects of their craft.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only
CRWR*6300 Drama Workshop U [0.50]
The Drama Workshop engages students in an intensive program of writing and reading work. Students will produce a substantial amount of dramatic writing and will also provide constructive criticism of the work of other workshop participants. Required reading will cover a wide range of dramatic literature and the study of dramatic forms and techniques.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only
CRWR*6400 Practicum in Creative Writing U [0.50]
In this course of guided study, the student will work on a creative project with a mentor who is a recognized member of the professional writing community.
<i>Restriction(s):</i> MFA.CW students only

CRWR*6500 Non-Fiction Workshop U [0.50]

The Non-Fiction Workshop engages students in a reading and writing intensive program of creative non-fiction. The workshops will be strongly focused on writing and will involve the creation and revision of a substantial body of new work in the genre, as well as critiquing the work of other students in the course. The reading component will focus on texts from a varied social and cultural range (e.g. family memoir, travel narrative, cultural memoir, themed meditation).

Restriction(s): MFA.CW students only

CRWR*6600 Special Topics in Creative Writing U [0.50]

A variable-content course focusing on a particular issue or approach to writing within one genre of creative writing (fiction, poetry, drama, etc.) or a particular issue or approach to writing that is at work across multiple genres.