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Programme Specification

Awarding Body/Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching Institution	Queen Mary University of London
Name of Final Award and Programme Title	MA in Poetry
Name of Interim Award(s)	
Duration of Study / Period of Registration	1 calendar year (full time), 2 calendar years (part time)
QM Programme Code / UCAS Code(s)	PMAF-QMENSH1 / PMAP-QMENSH1
QAA Benchmark Group	N/A
FHEQ Level of Award	Level 7
Programme Accredited by	N/A
Date Programme Specification Approved	January 2016
Responsible School / Institute	School of English & Drama

Schools which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme

School of Geography

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film

School of History

Institution(s) other than Queen Mary that will provide some teaching for the programme

Programme Outline

This distinctive new MA in Poetry is provided by the Department of English and the interdisciplinary Centre for Poetry at QMUL, whose members include poets and literary critics with varied interests in the practice and history of poetry around the world. It offers students a unique mix of specialised attention to the history and genre of poetry, a creative element which supports the development of their own poetic practice, and work placements within the cultural industries. Over this year-long (full-time) or two-year (part-time) course, students will take compulsory modules studying major poems and theories of poetics, and also experience a work placement at a major poetry organisation, making use of the Department's and Centre's extensive contacts with publishers, events organisers, charities, and literary development agencies. Students can also choose from an extensive and interdisciplinary list of optional modules from Schools across the College, many of which allow students to develop relevant professional skills.

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The course is designed to appeal to students who are developing a creative practice of their own, as well as those who wish to develop their understanding of poetry using the techniques of literary criticism. For example, students who write poetry can respond to readings on the compulsory 'Introduction to Poetics' module with the circulation and performance of a poem in place of a more conventional academic presentation, and submit a creative portfolio (consisting of poetry and critical commentary) for their final assessed essay. The course also requires students to write a dissertation, which can either be a traditional critical essay or a submission of poems and a critical commentary, on the model of (but distinct from) the portfolio produced for 'Introduction to Poetics'. Like all the teaching on this course, dissertations will be supervised by experts in the field, including members of staff who are poets themselves. It will suit individuals who plan to go on to doctoral research, who want to enhance their careers through the experience of research and the acquisition of transferable skills, or who wish to develop their existing poetic practice at a more advanced level. It is important to note that this MA is not a programme in creative writing per se; rather, it provides an opportunity for those students working as poets to engage with the history and contemporary practice of poetics through practice-based research.

This programme aims to provide an excellent graduate student experience through robust and effective academic management. It develops graduate attributes through work placements alongside more traditional critical writing and practice-based research. The flexibility of the programme makes it appropriate for students who plan to go on to doctoral research, who want to develop and enhance their careers through the experience of research and the acquisition of transferable skills, or who wish to pursue their existing literary interests at a more advanced level.

Aims of the Programme

This programme aims:

• to introduce students to research methods and resources for the advanced study of poetry, and to current theoretical and critical approaches to poetry, in order to develop skills and knowledge appropriate to Master's level
• to develop students' genre-specific knowledge and skills in preparation for doctoral research through the provision of specialized instruction
• to develop students' transferrable skills through existing modules from other disciplines including Drama, Geography, History, Modern Languages and Linguistics
• to build and enhance students' independent research, presentation, and essay writing skills through seminar participation, module assessment, and the writing of a supervised research dissertation
• to foster the development of creative portfolio of poetic work, if desired
• to extend access to high-quality MA teaching by putting in place appropriate and effective arrangements for part-time study, including an extended work placement of four weeks part-time

What Will You Be Expected to Achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will be able to

Academic Content:	
A1	demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary conventions of English studies, and a critical awareness of theoretical debate in the field.
A2	recognise and make use of a range of scholarly approaches to the analysis and interpretation of poetry, and an awareness of what is at stake in these differences of approach.
A3	explore a particular subject area (poetry) in greater depth than previously encountered in university study.

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B1	apply research-based knowledge in line with current scholarship.
B2	sort complex written and/or visual evidence from a variety of original sources, and critically evaluate the reliability of these different sources of information.
B3	show advanced competence in the use of learning resources as aids to research and observe the requirements for the professional presentation of their work.
B4	develop a poetry portfolio of original creative work that is sensitive to the interplay between form, content and context, and historically aware.

Attributes:	
C1	self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act independently in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.
C2	construct clear and persuasive arguments sufficient to sustain appropriately complex answers to the problems encountered in the course of their studies.
C3	demonstrate advanced proficiency in writing and speech, showing the ability to select an appropriate style and register, and to apply different forms of communication in a variety of cultural, professional, and workplace settings.
C4	Reflect self critically on their progress in both written and oral work, allowing for a continual improvement in knowledge and understanding, and the development of new skills at a high level.
C5	Exercise initiative and personal responsibility in decision making, while at the same time showing a readiness to act inclusively, and to work collaboratively, in a context of conflicting opinions.

How Will You Learn?

Teaching will be provided in weekly seminars (usually with a maximum of twelve students). Seminars will be led by staff members with research qualifications and interests in the area, and occasional guest speakers such as poets, arts administrators, or publishers. Students will be invited to discuss key issues, including theoretical approaches and interpretative procedures, and to assume an active role in shaping the direction and scope of the discussion. Participation will also be encouraged through seminar presentations, group research, and by the creation of a supportive, attentive, and considerate environment conducive to the exchange of ideas.

Seminars will be supplemented by consultations with module convenors, dissertation supervisors, and academic advisers, which will include opportunities for one-to-one discussions of course content, and plans for written work. In addition there may be guided visits to libraries, archives, performance venues and other sites. Students will be expected to engage in private study for several hours each week, preparing for the seminars and producing essays and the dissertation. Each module is supported by a detailed reading list and by other learning materials housed in its QM+ area.

The dissertation supervisor will be allocated in the light of the student's outline topic proposal, which is formulated during the semester two in consultation with the adviser (with input as needed from module convenors). The supervisor will have expertise in the area of the student's proposed topic, and will help the student refine and develop his or her plans. Supervision may include discussion of methodology, research resources, the scope of appropriate reading, the conduct and structure of the argument, the quality of submitted drafts and bibliographical procedures. Supervision will be provided in an initial, individual planning meeting, followed by a series of four one-to-one meetings. The dissertation must be of 15,000 words.

How Will You Be Assessed?

The compulsory and elective modules are assessed through a variety of submissions, including a written essay of 4000 words, a dissertation of 15,000 words, portfolios, presentations and practical projects. Students will be able to formulate their own projects in consultation with module convenors who will provide guidance on the planning and development in one-to-one sessions during the second part of the semester.

Written reports on all assessed work will be provided by first and second markers. All written work will be returned to students

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individually by the module convenor or the supervisor in feedback sessions. In order to provide written and oral feedback in good time, essays will be returned with provisional marks before the numerical grade has been formally approved by the external examiners.

How is the Programme Structured?
Please specify the full time and part time programme diets (if appropriate).

In accordance with the Academic Credit Framework, candidates for the MA in Poetry take modules (including a Dissertation) with a total credit value of 180 at level 7. These modules will include:

1. Compulsory module (semester 1): Introduction to Poetics [new module]. This module will introduce major theories of poetry and poetics through close readings of a selection of significant historic and contemporary poets. It will be assessed through a 4000 word critical essay OR a creative portfolio consisting of 8 pages of poetry and a 2000-word critical discussion which should reflect on one of the issues in poetics being taught in the class in relation to the poet's own practice. Students will also produce at least two unassessed workshop pieces (of either a poem or criticism) which respond to the reading.

2. Compulsory module (semester 1): Resources for Research [existing module].

3. Compulsory module (semester 2): Poetry at work [new module]. This zero-credited module will require students to work for four weeks part-time, or two weeks full time, in an arts, cultural, educational, or community organisation, or a publisher, magazine, literary agency, or other related business. These placements will be organised one semester in advance and students will be supported in finding placements by the Department and Centre's extensive contacts in these fields. Students will then write an unassessed 1000 word essay about their experiences and the role of poetry in contemporary society. An exit session will be provided by Career Services.

4. Compulsory module (semesters 1-3): Dissertation: 15,000 words [new module]. This will consist of either a single critical essay on some aspect of poetry and poetics, or a combination of a portfolio of poetry and a critical essay on some aspect of the student's practice.

5. Elective modules: Students must choose three modules, from a list which will be provided of modules running in the relevant year(s) of study that include the study of some poetry, or that will help to develop professional skills or theoretical knowledge which will be useful to students seeking a career related to the practice, promotion, publication or performance of poetry. Below is an indicative list of modules currently offered which meet these criteria.

Academic Year of Study   FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation		60	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Introduction to Poetics		30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Poetry at Work		0	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 2
Resources for Research	ESH7046	30	7	Compulsory	1	Semester 1

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
The Propaganda War in London, 1793-1796	ESH7104	30	7	Elective	1	
Romantic Manifestos	WASM021	30	7	Elective	1	
Selfhood and Enlightenment in the Long Eighteenth Century	HST7330	30	7	Elective	1	
Sociability: Literature and the CIty, 1660-1780	WASM019	30	7	Elective	1	
Aestheticism and the Fin-de-Siecle Literature	LCMM015	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Imagining South Asia and its Diaspora	ESH7054	30	7	Elective	1	
African Literary and Textual Cultures	ESH7201	30	7	Elective	1	
Postcolonialism, Language and Identity	LCMM044	30	7	Elective	1	
Modernism and After	ESH7034	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Imagining the Modern Caribbean	LCMM051	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Writing the East End	LCMM052	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Cultural Legacies of the First World War	ESH7203	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Narrative, Poetry and Storytelling in the 21st Century	ESH7804	30	7	Elective	1	
Peripheral Modernities	ESH7805	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Writing and the Present	ESH7801					
Cultural History: Europe and America	HST7607					
Cultural Geography in Practice	GEG7122					
Art, Performance and The City	GEG7102					

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Thinking Translation	SMLM028					
Being an Author 1450-1550	ESH7702					
The Spatial Turn: History, Literature and Geography	ESH7304					
Romantic Worldview: The Orient and Others	ESH7004	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Theatre and Performance Theory	DRA7006	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Constellations: Online Anthology Project	COM7002	60	7	Elective	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Documentary Film - Theory and Practice	SML7050	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
Exilic Writing and the Making of World Literature	COM7201	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1
From the Sublime to the Trauma: Representing the Unrepresentable	COM701	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
Empire, Race and Immigration	GEG7109	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 2
The Theory and History of Community Organising	GEG7405	30	7	Elective	1	Semester 1

What Are the Entry Requirements?

First degree (UK): A good 2:1 (that is, an average of 65 or higher) in a Humanities discipline (for example, Drama, English, History, Philosophy).

North America: minimum grade point average of 3.5.
IELTS: A minimum overall score of 7.5, with at least 7.0 in Writing.
TOEFL (paper based): A score of at least 625.

How Do We Listen and Act on Your Feedback?

Student-Staff Liaison Committee and student feedback:
MA students have two representatives on the department's Student-Staff Liaison Committee, which is chaired by the Head of English, where they are able to raise questions and concerns about aspects of programme management. All modules are evaluated by written student questionnaires, which are monitored by the Head of English. Convenors are required to respond to student feedback in their module reviews.

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Academic Support

Advisers and induction:
Students will attend the School's induction programme for Master's students. This will include a programme-specific induction with the convenor, who will usually also act as the student's adviser, where they will also discuss the the student's choice of options. Students will meet with their advisers at the beginning of each semester to discuss practical and academic issues (including dissertation plans) to set goals. Other meetings will be arranged for week 6 (to discuss module essay plans). A record of these meetings will be kept in the student's file.

Programme-specific Rules and Facts

Specific Support for Disabled Students

Links With Employers, Placement Opportunities and Transferable Skills

The MA in Poetry will provide an enhanced understanding of the study of literature relevant to students who intended to follow a teaching career, and a strong grounding in research methodologies and practices for students who intended to progress to doctoral work. Employer feedback for other MA programmes provided by the Department of English has particularly valued the research skills and high level of critical thinking acquired by graduates from the MA and the contribution these make to the problem-solving abilities required of those who work at senior levels in complex organizations.

This MA also provides a unique introduction to poetry and the workplace, through an unassessed compulsory module which places students with literary and cultural organisations, publishers, educational and community groups. This module will focus on expanding students' knowledge of and networking within the sector, and will also provide opportunities for mentoring and professional development. It will supplement the other transferable skills (the analysis of complex evidence, the oral and written presentation of arguments and information, and effective time-management) developed by the course as a whole.

The placement will be managed by the module convenor, who will meet with students in the first semester to discuss their interests, and afterward provide written introductions of the student to potential employers. The convenor will also support students with special needs to make any necessary adjustments, and provide alternative plans of study and supervision in the unlikely event that a satisfactory placement cannot be achieved. Once a placement has been agreed in principle, the convenor will also secure a written agreement between the placement provider and the School that sets out the terms of the placement and maps the student's proposed work against the module's learning outcomes. The provider will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, which demonstrates their understanding that they should assign the student a supervisor for the duration of the placement, that they have put thought into the professional skills that the student will acquire and that they have suitable Health & Safety, Equalities, Volunteering and Insurance policies in place.

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An exit session will be provided by Career Services.

A representative (but not exhaustive) list includes:

1. The Poetry Society
2. Poetry London
3. Apples and Snakes
4. Poet in the City
5. The Poetry Translation Centre
6. English PEN
7. The Poetry Library, South Bank
8. Faber and Faber
9. Carcanet
10. Bloodaxe
11. Penned in the Margins
12. Hammer & Tongue
13. Commonwealth Writers
14. Spread the Word
15. The Roundhouse
16. Barbican's Creative Learning department
17. Wasafiri
18. The White Review
19. The Ministry of Stories
20. Brady Arts Centre
21. Kobi Nazrul Centre
22. Spotlight
23. Furtherfield
28. Soda

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification	Prof. Andrea Brady
Person responsible for management of programme	Prof. Andrea Brady
Date Programme Specification produced/amended by School Learning and Teaching Committee	
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board	January 2016

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