

Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research

AD485PC

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS

Programme title	Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research	School	School of Visual Culture
Resulting awards	Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research	Head of School	Professor David Crowley
Level	Level 9 on the National Framework of Qualifications	ECTS credits¹	5 credits
University award	Professional Certificate (Special Purpose) award	Programme type	Postgraduate programme delivered flexibly
Programme Co-ordinator	Dr Declan Long	External Examiner	TBC
Programme team	School of Visual Culture staff		

1. Programme Aims and Objectives: Purpose, Vision and Values

The Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research is one of several of programmes offered by School of Visual Culture at NCAD to suitably-qualified research students registered in any of the four schools at NCAD and to learners via the [Creative Futures Academy \(CFA\)](#).

The CFA offers a wide range of short and long courses leading to a range of awards from professional certificates to full Masters programmes. They are designed to support future, early and mid-career creative professionals to acquire skills and understanding that will serve their professional needs and provide opportunities to undertake further level 8 and 9 learning. Learners may take CFA courses to deepen their professional and intellectual competencies or develop new ones. All NCAD CFA programmes recognise the changing technical, social and economic contexts in which art, design and allied fields are practiced. As such, they offer opportunities to learners to engage with new thinking and approaches to practice. All CFA programmes benefit from guidance offered by an Industry Council formed by representatives of professional bodies in diverse art, design and cultural fields.

The Creative Futures Academy (CFA) is a space for learners to learn, to network and to allow new ideas to influence and shape our future.

Programme Aims

The Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research is designed to support the development of ambitious and sophisticated writing practices by research students and other learners who elect

¹ European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year (two trimesters)

to take this course through the Creative Futures Academy. It has a strong focus on writing in the context of art and design research.

In this programme, writing is understood as not – or not only – the production of the thesis which forms a standard part of any research degree. Instead, it is approached as a wider ecology of practices and skills that include publishing and editing. As such the module combines workshops on these professional skills and perspectives. It will also act as a critical lens on the writing practice of the participants, as they share and review each other's work (proposals, writing experiments, etc).

The programme aims to:

- Provide participants with opportunities to develop their own writing practice as well as editorial skills.
- Introduce learners to current issues and concerns in publishing today.

2. Programme Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme, students will have:

1. Acquired UNDERSTANDING – students will acquire a critical understanding of the operations of publishers and editors in the field of academic publishing.
2. Engaged in CRITICAL REFLECTION and FEEDBACK and developed EDITING SKILLS – by engaging in peer-learning and workshop activities, participants will analyse each other's writing. They will have developed key editing skills.
3. Developed a small PORTFOLIO of texts – students will have produced sophisticated publishing proposals that meet the expectations and criteria that operate in publishing today.

3. Admission Requirements

To be accepted into the programme, applicants must have a 2.2 degree. Alternatively, applicants who can demonstrate equivalent and relevant professional practice or industry experience in the subject or a related field will be considered for entry.

Students should apply to the programme with evidence of previous successful qualifications and statements of work-related achievement etc.

Students who have not been educated through English must show proof of achieving IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 6 in the writing section on the Academic Version) or an equivalent score in another accepted test.

4. Further Educational Opportunities

The Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research is an opportunity to explore writing practices at level 9 and so may be approached by CFA learners as a step towards undertaking a research degree or a taught postgraduate degree.

Careers and skills

The Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research may support the professional needs and opportunities of artists, designers and others who wish to develop a writing practice in, for instance, arts journalism and curation.

5. Teaching and Learning

The programme will be taught in workshops in which students will prepare and share their own writing. The workshops will be led by NCAD academic staff as well as expert professionals from different fields of publishing. Bibliographic materials as well as access to CANVAS VLE will be provided. Distance learning opportunities will be offered where possible.

6. Methods of Assessment

Work undertaken by students on the Professional Certificate in Writing as/for Research will be assessed in both of the following ways.

- **Formative Assessment:** typically involves feedback (oral or written) to students on their progress, and does not usually involve a mark. It is used to provide constructive feedback to improve learning and understanding.
- **Summative Assessment:** assessment results are aggregated and used to determine whether students have fulfilled the specified learning outcomes and have met the standard required to achieve a passing grade, and so can be granted the credits for successfully completing the programme.

7. Programme Review and Evaluation

All programmes are subject to College-wide evaluation practices and events. The annual online student evaluation takes place in May or June, asking all College students to provide feedback. Results are sent to each School to respond to and report to Programmes Board on what changes or developments will be implemented in response to the evaluations.

External Examiners review and assist evaluation as well as assessment. In addition, informal feedback is gathered from discussions with students, staff and management.

These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, learners are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year.

This programme is delivered under the support of the Creative Futures Academy HCI pillar 1 funded project, which is subject to an annual evaluation. A major review of this programme will be carried out in 2026-27.

8. Modular Provision

Code & module title	Credits	Core, Option or Elective	Trimester
Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research			
PGCFAV1007 Writing For and As Research			

9. Programme Structure

Professional Certificate in Writing For and As Research	
PGCFAV1007 Writing For and As Research 5 Credits	

10. Exit Points and Credit Requirements

Final Award Calculation

The final award is calculated on the basis of successful competition of the module PGCFAV1007 Writing For and As Research.

11. Resources

Staffing

Name	Title/Role
Programme Co-ordinator, Module Co-ordinators	
Dr Declan Long	Programme Co-ordinator
Dr Declan Long	Module Co-ordinator

Space

The programme will be based within existing college studios, workshops and other spaces across the calendar year, while also availing of external spaces where appropriate for on-location or work-based learning.

Facilities

The programme will utilise existing college facilities. Access to facilities across the CFA partners will be available subject to nature and availability.

For further information on this programme, contact

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