



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM
MASTER OF FINE ARTS
PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS HANDBOOK**

(Revised December 13th, 2011)

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CONTACT INFORMATION CREATIVE WRITING PROGRAM

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INTRODUCTION

Creative Writing at UBC was launched by the poet Earle Birney in 1946 and became an independent department in 1963. From 1995 to 2007 it was one of a trio of interdisciplinary Programs within the Department of Theatre, Film and Creative Writing. Creative Writing is now an independent Program.

The Creative Writing Program is unique within North America, offering workshops in eleven different genres. The approximately 60 graduate students and 20 faculty (tenure-track, sessional, postdoctoral teaching fellows and adjunct) in our program make up a vital and inspiring literary community. Students can become involved with *PRISM international*, the Program's award-winning literary journal, and with a variety of reading series, publications, performances, and literary events, both on-campus and in the diverse and sophisticated literary milieu of Vancouver.

The Creative Writing Program is the recipient of two endowments: The Arnold and Nancy Cliff Endowment and the Rogers Communications Endowment. The Arnold and Nancy Cliff endowment has presented noted Writers-in-Residence who join our Program intermittently. This year, creator of the *Franklin the Turtle* books, Paulette Bourgeois will be joining the program offer readings and consult with students. The Rogers Communications Endowment funds our creative non-fiction curriculum. In addition, a number of smaller endowments enable us to offer second-year graduate students a range of awards, scholarships and prizes varying in value.

The aim of the Creative Writing Program at UBC is to provide an intensive, varied and demanding two-year apprenticeship for a select number of students who have shown, upon application, an already high level of ability and the promise of becoming professional writers of merit. The Program leads to a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing.

Students are required to take workshops in three of the following eleven genre areas: fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, writing for children, graphic novel, translation, stage play, radio, screenwriting, song lyric and libretto and 'mixed' which includes special project courses such as Asian Canadian Writing. Students typically focus on their thesis genres, but the "cross-training" component of the Program is intended to give students a fuller understanding of their capacities as writers. Experience in a number of genres also enhances their opportunities for teaching and editing.

Prospective students should note that, with respect to the Program's three-genre requirement, long and short fiction are considered a single genre – fiction. Students are asked to specify their genres of interest on the application form.

Regular deadlines and quotas for workshops are set. Regular attendance and active participation in workshops is expected, and students are encouraged to consult regularly with instructors.

Academic Year: September is the only entrance date to the MFA in Creative Writing Program and the Joint MFA in Creative Writing and Theatre Program. Therefore applicants to the November 4th, 2011 deadline who are accepted into the Program start in September 2012.

Courses are conducted from September through April, with some students continuing to work on their writing from May to September of their first year. Tuition is charged over the summer months following first year.

Tuition Fees: The UBC online Calendar (<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/tuition/>) gives details for this year's tuition fees, specifying rates for full-time, part-time and international students. Tuition fees are paid in three installments in September, January and May. Students pay these installments regardless of whether they are taking courses over the summer.

Course Numbering:

Graduate courses are numbered 500 and above. (Undergraduate courses are numbered 200, 300 and 400.) Graduate students are not required to take any 200, 300 or 400 courses.)

Course Requirements:

Students are required to take 500 level graduate workshops in at least three of the eleven genre areas offered. A total of thirty-six (36) credits must be completed during the duration of the students' program. It is recommended that students register for eighteen (18) credits of course work in their first year. The preferred option is: three-six (6) credit workshops. Another option would be to take two-six (6) credit workshops and two elective (non-workshop) courses worth three (3) credits each.

The Program at times is able to offer elective (non-workshop) courses which, while they do count as credit towards the degree, do not fulfill genre requirements. In 2011-2012 we offer:

Editing and Managing a Literary Magazine (CrWr 521; 3 credits) is a pre-requisite for first-year students who wish to apply to become editors in second year of *PRISM international*, the Program's literary magazine.

Preparing for a Career in Creative Writing (Crwr 522; 3 credits)

Teaching Creative Writing/Learning Exchange (CrWr 522B; 6 credits)

Please note the following guidelines:

- 1) Students are permitted to take a maximum of nine credits of elective (non-workshop) per year to a total of twelve credits in total, in consultation with the Graduate Advisor. Courses such as CrWr 521, CrWr 523 and CrWr 522B are considered to be electives.*
- 2) A maximum of six credits in another discipline may be taken for credit towards a students'*

*credit total requirement to graduate. These six credits can be either at a graduate level or an undergraduate 300 or 400 level courses. **Graduate Advisor permission is required.***

Occasionally, in the more specialized genres, advanced undergraduate students may participate in graduate level workshops.

Full-time students generally complete the program by April of their second year or the following November, although students are allowed a maximum of five years to complete their degree requirements. Yearly tuition fees apply.

Thesis: Students choose their thesis supervisor from among full-time Creative Writing Faculty by the end of their first year, and begin working on thesis the summer between their first and second years. The thesis normally consists of the student's best work composed in the course of the Program. Theses are book-length works of publishable quality. A thesis designed for stage, screen, television, or radio should be at least ninety minutes in running time. For lyric and libretto, thesis consists of a significant body of work for performance and/or recording. Students with the required ability and linguistic knowledge may fulfill their thesis requirements with a work of translation.

Joint MFA Degree in Stage Play and Theatre: Candidates must first apply to Creative Writing. Once accepted by Creative Writing, their portfolios are evaluated by the Theatre department for final approval. For inquiries contact Bryan Wade at bwade at mail.ubc.ca or (604) 822-2042. Or contact Stephen Heatley, Professor, at sheatley at mail.ubc.ca or (604) 822-0037. Also, visit the Theatre website: www.theatre.ubc.ca

Requirements: Students accepted into the Joint MFA Creative Writing/Theatre degree are required to take CrWr 517C (Advanced Play Development) in their first year. Students are required to complete their thesis (CrWr 549) in stage play and begin work after their first year. Students are also required to complete a graduate seminar in Theatre THTR 562 (not offered every year). The rest of the students' coursework is chosen from Creative Writing and Theatre courses in consultation with advisors, Bryan Wade and Stephen Heatley.

Joint MFA Degree in Film Production and Screenwriting: Students must first apply to the Film Production Program. Visit the Film Program website at: <http://www.film.ubc.ca/index.shtml>. For inquiries contact Rachel Talalay Film Production Advisor at 604 822-9103 or at rtalaly at mail.ubc.ca. Or contact Peggy Thompson, Associate Professor, Creative Writing Program at peggyt at mail.ubc.ca if you have any questions.

Optional Residency MFA: We also offer an Optional Residency MFA in Creative Writing by distance education through our Optional Residency MFA Program. In this program, students work on-line during the academic year. An optional ten-day summer residency is held each July at the UBC Vancouver campus for workshops, writing panels and social events. Students can work full-time or part-time. This program is suitable for students outside Vancouver, outside of Canada and those local students who have work or family commitments, which prevent their attending regular classes.

The next competition deadline for the Optional Residency program is September 11, 2011 to begin the academic year in September 2012. For more information, please see: http://www.creativewriting.ubc.ca/programs_mfa_op_residency_about.shtml

Further questions about the Optional Residency program should be directed to Andrew Gray, Optional Residency Coordinator, at 604 822-2469 or by email at optres.mfa@ubc.ca.

STUDENT FUNDING

Graduate Student Initiative: Through the Graduate Student Initiative (GSI) The Program normally offers both incoming and returning students funding ranging from \$500 to \$3,000; amounts vary from year to year. These awards are adjudicated by the Program faculty members and are awarded on the basis of academic and professional achievement. Please note that all accepted incoming and returning graduate students are automatically considered for these funds. Students are not required to apply and scholarships are not based on need.

Canada Graduate Scholarships (SSHRC): The Program encourages Canadian MFA students with high academic standing (a minimum of first-class standing) in each of their final two years of undergraduate education to apply for these scholarships, which fund their second year in the MFA Program. Applications for second year funding must be completed in September of first year. A full CGS is \$17,500. International students may be eligible to apply for Affiliated Awards.

(Please note that all CGS (SSHRC) and Affiliated Awards applications need to be processed and adjudicated by the Creative Writing Program. The Graduate Advisor will make more information available to students in September after the start of classes during a SSHRC Awards Information Session.)

Partial International Tuition Scholarships

International students are automatically considered for the Partial International Tuition Scholarship unless their tuition is paid by a third party agency. For more information please visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies website at: <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/international-students/funding-international-students>

Teaching Assistantships: TA positions (full or partial) may be available for the following undergraduate courses: CrWr 202 (Introduction to Creative Writing), CrWr 206 (Introduction to Screenplay), CrWr 211 (Introduction to Lyric Forms), CrWr 213 (Introduction to Writing for New Media) and CrWr 217 (Introduction to Writing for Stage and Radio). Incoming students who are interested in applying for TA positions should contact Graduate Advisor Bryan Wade, bwade@mail.ubc.ca. Students may also apply for other Teaching Assistantships outside of the Creative Writing Program.

Awards: Creative Writing has approximately twenty-five dedicated awards, scholarships and prizes ranging in value from approximately \$4,000 to \$250 which are awarded annually by Creative Writing faculty to students at the end of first year for their second year of study. All awards are based on merit; some are also designated for financial need. Please note that all

first-year students continuing into second year are automatically considered for these awards. Students are not required to apply for them.

PRISM international: *PRISM international*, a magazine of contemporary writing, first appeared in September 1959. Since 1978, *PRISM* has been student-run. *PRISM* annually obtains graduate assistantships of approximately \$5,000 for four second-year graduate students who are hired for the two executive and two content editor positions. Students are not given academic credit for these positions. Editors are hired for their energy, literary experience, and business and organizational ability. Where funding is available, a Contest Manager may also be hired. First-year students normally volunteer in a variety of capacities to be eligible for paid positions in second year. Students planning to apply for paid editorial positions are required to take Editing and Managing a Small Magazine in first year.

New Shoots: New Shoots is a program in which MFA graduate students may gain teaching experience by instructing junior and senior high school students in creative writing. Students are paid a nominal honorarium (approximately \$300) which is funded in part by the Vancouver School Board and in part by the Creative Writing Program. Additionally, the Program hires one Graduate Student to coordinate the New Shoots Program every year; this Coordinator position is funded through the UBC Work Study Program and is valued at approximately \$4,800.

Booming Ground: Booming Ground is a graduate student-run mentorship program for members of the wider community. The Creative Writing Program hires three Booming Ground Coordinators/ Mentors through the UBC Work Study Program to both coordinate the operations of the program and work as mentors. Three Work Study positions are available every year, valued at approximately \$4,800 each and preference is given to second-year students who have completed CrWr 522B: Teaching CrWr / Learning Exchange.

Creative Writing Student Association: 2010 marks the implementation and first year of the Creative Writing Student Association. One graduate student is hired to Chair the Association and organize a series of events for both graduate and undergraduate Creative Writing students and well as liaise with faculty and staff. This is a paid position of approximately \$3,000.

Science Writing: In May 2008, The Science Creative Literacy Symposia, a pilot program with the Advanced Molecular Biology Lab at the Michael Smith Laboratories, was launched. The project continues in expanded form with Creative Writing grads paired with Science grad students to provide an engaging outreach experience for elementary students. Science exploration is combined with creative writing, and Creative Writing grads receive an hourly wage based on the number of workshops they offer.

Student Loans, Grants and Bursaries: Canadian student loans are government-funded repayable financial assistance. Eligibility is determined by a standard means test. Students are required to apply for student loans through their province of residence. See the UBC website <http://www.students.ubc.ca/finance/loans.cfm> for further information. Non-Canadian students should inquire in their country of residence regarding student loans.

UBC also offers bursaries to students who have student loans. There are general bursaries available to all UBC students as well as a few bursaries designated specifically for Creative Writing students. See the UBC Student Services website

<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/prospective-students?tid=6>

Please note that students are also eligible for bursaries and loans to cover the summer term, since they are enrolled over the summer.

BC Arts Council Funding: Applicants who are Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents and have lived in British Columbia for one year or longer may be eligible to obtain \$3,500 Scholarship Awards from the BC Arts Council. Please see their website:

<http://www.bcartscouncil.ca>

Work Study: Canadian students may be eligible for UBC Work Study employment on campus in a variety of jobs to a maximum of 10 hours per week and earn up to \$4,000 for the Winter Session (September to April). Creative Writing usually has at least one Work Study position. Students should check the website for eligibility information and apply early. Work Study is open to domestic graduate students paying full-time tuition. See the Student Services website:

<http://www.careers.ubc.ca/opportunities.cfm?page=workstudy>

International Students: International students may be eligible for employment on or off campus via the UBC Work Learn program or other programs depending on their status. For detailed informational on the regulations and the work permit application process, see the Student Services website:

<http://www.international.ubc.ca/>

GRADUATE COURSES

Course #	Title	Credits	Notes
CrWr 503	Advanced Writing of Children's Literature	6	
CrWr 504	Advanced Writing for Radio	3	
CrWr 505	Creative Forms and Techniques of Non-Fiction	6	
CrWr 506	Advanced Writing of Drama for Screen and Television	6	
CrWr 507	Advanced Writing of Drama for the Stage	6	
CrWr 508/509	Advanced Novel/ Short Fiction	6	
CrWr 510	Advanced Writing of Poetry	6	
CrWr 511	Advanced Lyric & Libretto	6	
CrWr 515	Advanced Workshop in Literary Translation	3	Not offered 2011/2012
CrWr 516	Research and Writing of Feature and Investigative Articles, Essays and Studies (Advanced)	6	Not offered 2011/2012
CrWr 517C	Advanced Play Development Workshop	6	
CrWr 521	Editing a Literary Magazine	3	Does not fulfill genre requirement
CrWr 522	Teaching Creative Writing	6	Does not fulfill genre requirement
CrWr 523	Preparing for a Career in Creative Writing	3	Elective. Does not fulfill genre requirement
CrWr 539	Special Projects in Creative Writing	3-6	2011/2012 Special Projects: -Grad Craft -Graphic Forms -Asian Canadian Creative Media -Fiction Writing on Second Life -Writing for TV
CrWr 547	Directed Reading	3/6	Available only upon consent of instructor.
CrWr 549	Thesis	6	

Complete and detailed course descriptions are listed on our website. Classes offered vary from year to year; the annual schedule is listed on the Creative Writing website and updated frequently.

ADMISSION POLICY

Admission to the Creative Writing MFA Program is based on manuscript submissions evaluated by the Creative Writing Program faculty. The Creative Writing Program also takes professional experience and publications into account. Students' undergraduate degrees may be in any discipline, but must include a Bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited university-level institution.

Creative Writing does not provide critiques of manuscript submissions. The evaluation procedure is confidential, and we do not disclose any details regarding the decision to accept or reject an application.

It is important for applicants to clearly specify their main genre of interest in both their personal cover letter and in the Application Form they complete. Applications are first routed to a reader in the stated main genre of interest for possible short-listing. If the application is short-listed, the entire portfolio will then be read. Applicants should list their main genre as a planned genre of study on the Application Form.

Admission is a two-level process in which students must be accepted both by the Creative Writing Program and by University of British Columbia's Faculty of Graduate Studies. UBC and the Faculty of Graduate Studies require the following for admission:

- A four-year undergraduate degree. Though four years are normally required for acceptance into a graduate program, certain exceptions apply. For details on exceptions to this standard, please check the FoGS website at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/>
- A B+ average in third and fourth year-level course work, or at least 12 credits of third- or fourth-year courses in the A- grade range (at UBC this is 80% or higher) in the field of intended graduate study. Detailed information about transcript requirements can be found at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/how/documents.asp>.
- Sufficient preparatory academic background to carry out graduate work in a chosen field.
- Evidence of English-language proficiency. Note that Creative Writing students are expected to function at a very high level of proficiency in English.

Joint Creative Writing/Theatre MFA applicants must also be accepted by the Theatre Program in addition to the approval of Grad Studies. Students who apply to the Joint Program in Creative Writing and Theatre (MFA in Playwriting & Theatre) are not allowed to also apply to the regular MFA Program.

Further details regarding UBC and the Faculty of Graduate Studies requirements can be found at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/how/require.asp>

HOW TO APPLY

Application is a two-level process in which students must apply both to the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Graduate Studies and to the Creative Writing Program.

STEP 1. FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES ON-LINE APPLICATION:

Students must first apply directly to UBC's Faculty of Graduate Studies via their online application website: <https://secure.grad.ubc.ca/AccountC/instructions.asp>. The application website will be available from July 5th to November 4th, 2011. The system will generate an 8 digit reference number which will become your student number if you are accepted by the Creative Writing Program. The current application fee is CDN \$91.80 for Canadian applicants. International applicants pay CDN \$153. This fee is set by UBC Graduate Studies and is non-refundable. **On-line application deadline:** November 4th, 2011.

The on-line application fee is normally paid by credit card. If you do not have a credit card, another cardholder may pay on your behalf.

If you are unable to pay on-line, download and print the on-line application form. The completed application form and accompanying cheque, bank draft or money order (made payable to UBC Faculty of Graduate Studies) must be sent directly to Pat Rose, Secretary in the Creative Writing Program with a note saying you were unable to apply and pay on-line. Pat Rose will note this on your file and your payment and application will then be forwarded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. **Note:** Send US \$153 if you are an international student and are sending a money order, cheque or bank draft. Do not send cash, wire, transfers, Eurocheques, or UNESCO cheques.

Final Decisions: The short list will not be disclosed. Only final decisions will be sent to the applicant via email in February 2012 of the final decision.

Applying For Both Programs: If you are applying to both the Residency and the Optional Residency MFA programs, make sure you have met the Optional Residency Program deadline of September 11th, 2011. Complete the on-line application for the Optional Residency Program and pay the application fee. Send transcripts and reference letters to Andrew Gray in the Optional Residency Program. Send your manuscript to both programs. You do not need to send identical work to each Program. For the Residency Program to Pat Rose (patrose at mail.ubc.ca) with a note saying you are applying for both programs. For the Optional Residency Program to Andrew Gray at optres.mfa at ubc.ca. Follow the guidelines for each Program as they are slightly different. See the following page for the Residency Program guidelines.

STEP 2. MANUSCRIPT APPLICATION:

In addition to the on-line application to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students must also apply to the Creative Writing Program by submitting:

1. A manuscript of writing via email. The manuscript should include two genres written by the applicant (co-written material is not acceptable).
2. Include a personal cover letter, a table of contents and the Creative Writing MFA Questionnaire form (page 19) and a publications/awards/productions list if applicable. A CV is required from applicants who do not meet the GPA requirements.
3. Mail two official transcripts from undergraduate (and post graduate if applicable) institutions to Pat Rose, Secretary. GRE, GMAT and other academic scores are **not** required.
4. Three reference letters from the referees stated on your on-line application form via E-reference link or hard copies sent via regular mail to Pat Rose, Secretary.

Manuscript Acknowledgment: A confirmation will be sent to you by email when your manuscript is received. A manuscript confirmation will not be noted on the Faculty of Graduate Studies on-line application Check List.

If you submit a piece that is much longer than our guidelines (page 17) we will return it to you for revision. If you are over or under by a page or two it will be acceptable.

Manuscript File Titles & Format: Use the following standards for emailing your attachments:

1. All documents must be in the older version of Word format (1997-2004) or PDF files. We will not accept submissions in other formats. Do not send DocX (newer version of Word format), Rich Text, Zip or JPEG files.
2. Create a file for your table of contents and personal cover letter. Name this file CoverLetter.
3. MFA Questionnaire form (page 19). You may print and scan this form or cut and paste the information to create a Word or PDF file. Name this file Questionnaire.
4. A publications/awards/productions list file and CV file are created if applicable.
5. Send one file for each genre sample you are sending. See the example of file titles below.

6. Name your files using your last name in capitals, then your first name lower case, and the title. For example, John Smith's manuscript attachment files are titled as follows:
 - a. SMITH john CoverLetter
 - b. SMITH john Questionnaire
 - c. SMITH john Poetry
 - d. SMITH john Fiction
 - e. SMITH john Lyric

If applicable the following files will be created as:

- f. SMITH john Publications
- g. SMITH john CV

Email your manuscript application to: patrose at mail.ubc.ca. (Don't worry if you send it to patrose at interchange.ubc.ca. It will be received.) The subject line of the email should say: SMITH John MFA application. The text of the email should say what you are applying for. Attach all files in this one email.

Table of Contents: List your main genre first and state that it is your main genre. List the titles of each story, poem, essay, etc. separately under each genre heading. Listing page numbers on the Table of Contents is optional.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Your name

Poetry (main genre):

Title of Poem

Title of Poem

Title of Poem

Fiction:

Title of Story

Title of Story

Lyric:

Title of Song

Title of Song

(if applicable say you sent a CD of your music to the Secretary via regular mail)

Personal cover letter (one page): The first sentence should state what you are applying for. It should say you applying for the Residency MFA Program or you are applying for both the Optional Residency and Residency MFA Program or you are applying for the Joint MFA in Stage play (Creative Writing & Theatre). Include your name, address, telephone number and email address. The letter must also indicate your main genre and include a brief description of your educational background and/or life experiences that are relevant to your writing and the Program. Please note that acceptance into the Program does not depend on the lyricism of your cover letter; our primary concern is the originality and vitality of your writing portfolio. However, for example, we do not want to know you have wanted to be a writer since you were seven years old.

List of publications/awards/productions (if applicable): Enclose a list of publications, readings, awards and productions. Please note that this is not a requirement.

CV (if applicable): The Faculty of Graduate Studies requires a CV from applicants with a questionable first class GPA. See the link under Transcript Evaluation By Country (below).

Transcripts: Creative Writing requires two (duplicate) official transcripts from each post-secondary institution you have attended. Mailed transcripts must be sent directly from the issuing institution to the Secretary, Ms. Pat Rose, Creative Writing Program. Transcripts issued to a student may not be acceptable.

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate degree at UBC do not need to send official transcripts. However, if you have attended other colleges/universities before or after your studies at UBC, you must also send two official transcripts from each institution.

Request that your undergraduate institution mail your transcripts to the address below.

Transcript Evaluation By Country: Detailed information about transcript requirements can be found at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/apply/how/documents.asp>.

Three Reference Letters: List the names of three referees from individuals who are prepared to provide a report on your academic ability or your qualifications as a writer on the on-line application form. The system will automatically send an E-reference link to the referees. However, referees with email accounts from Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail, MSN or other free e-mail accounts will not be sent an E-reference link.

Referees with free email accounts should use the following link to the reference form:

<http://www.grad.ubc.ca/forms/report-applicant-admission-graduate-studies>

The completed reference form must be signed in ink and sealed in an envelope with the referee's signature across the seal. The reference form should be sent to:

Pat Rose, Secretary
UBC Creative Writing Program
Buchanan Room E462, 1866 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 Canada

Note: Reference letters for applicants who have completed their undergraduate degree in our Program will have their reference letters provided by the faculty.

TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language): Applicants from a university outside Canada in which English is not the primary language of instruction must present original TOEFL scores as evidence of competency to pursue studies in the English language prior to being extended an offer of admission. Creative Writing students are expected to function at a very high level of proficiency in English.

Note: A new, Internet-based version of the TOEFL is now available. It is intended to replace both the paper and computer versions. Paper or computer test results will still be valid for two years after the date the test is taken. The minimum total score for all applicants to the Faculty of Graduate Studies is 550 for paper-based TOEFL and 213 for computer-based TOEFL.

TOEFL Scores: Tests must have been taken within the last 24 months at the time of submission of your application, and an official test score report ordered from the testing agency is required. Photocopies of test scores are not acceptable. UBC's code is: 0965. For more information go to: <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/application-admission/english-proficiency-requirements>

GRE GMAT and other academic scores are not required.

Paper Document Delivery (transcripts, CDs for Lyric & Libretto)

Mail to:

Ms. Pat Rose, Secretary
UBC Creative Writing Program
Buchanan Room E462, 1866 Main Mall
Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z1 Canada

Campus delivery can be complex. Please ensure that the address is written exactly as it is above. Do not send documents to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Courier Deliveries: Couriers should be told to deliver to the East Mall side of the building and to call Pat Rose at 604 822-0699 if they have a problem locating the Creative Writing office.

DEADLINES

Faculty of Graduate Studies on-line application: Complete the on-line application and pay the application fee by November 4th, 2011.

Manuscript Application to Creative Writing: Submit your personal cover letter, MFA Questionnaire form, manuscript of writing, and table of contents by November 4th, 2011 to: patrose at mail.ubc.ca.

Transcripts: Transcripts must be mailed directly from the university/college to: Pat Rose, UBC Creative Writing, Buchanan Room E462, 1866 Main Mall, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1. We would prefer to have the transcript(s) by November 30th, 2011. However, late transcripts will be accepted but may not be confirmed as received on the Faculty of Graduate Studies on-line Application Check List.

Reference Letters: We would prefer to have the reference letters by November 30th, 2011. However, late references will be accepted but may not be confirmed as received on the Faculty of Graduate Studies on-line Application Check List.

Notification: All applicants will be notified by email in February of the results of the competition.

MANUSCRIPT GUIDELINES & GENRE REQUIREMENTS

WRITING SAMPLE GUIDELINES

Writing samples must include a minimum of two different genres. A writing sample from a third genre is recommended but not required. The page length and formatting requirements vary for each genre and are detailed below.

The exception to this rule: Applicants to the Joint Creative Writing/Theatre Program are allowed to submit one full-length play and/or three one-act plays. There is no page limit for these applicants' manuscripts.

Creative Writing does not provide critiques of manuscript submissions. The evaluation procedure is confidential, and we do not disclose any details regarding the decision to accept or reject an application.

As noted above, applications, with the exception of transcripts, must be sent via email as attachments. Do not submit videos, computer discs or audio formats *except as specified for Lyric and Libretto submissions*. Paper submissions are no longer accepted.

Include a title page for each genre sample with your name, address, phone number and email.

Page Numbering: Each genre of your writing should have page numbers except for poetry and lyric & libretto. When submitting more than one piece of work in the same genre you should number each piece separately.

Genre Requirements

Please do not submit a piece that is longer than our guidelines below. However, if it is over/under by a page or two that would be okay.

Poetry: 15 pages, single-spaced, one poem maximum per page.

Fiction: Short Fiction: 20 pages double-spaced. Novel: excerpt of 20 pages double-spaced (outline optional). If you choose to submit both long and short fiction, submit no more than 20 pages in total. (**Note:** Short & long fiction are not considered separate genres; therefore you must submit a second genre in addition to fiction.)

Screenplay: The first 20 pages of a feature screenplay as well as a two-page outline for the same screenplay, or a 20 page short screenplay. Sample scripts (also called show scripts) from pre-existing television series are not acceptable – the writing, development of characters, etc., must be original to you.

Stage play: 50-page excerpt of a full-length play, or two one-acts totalling 50 pages all together

Creative Non-Fiction: 25 pages double-spaced of creative non-fiction. This may include autobiographical writing (including diaries or journals), personal essays (but not academic essays), travel writing, literary journalism (but not newspaper reporting), commentary, and cultural reviews (but not technical reviews). In essence, we are looking for any non-fiction written in your own opinionated voice – as opposed to the more neutral, formulaic style characteristic of most academic, technical or newspaper writing. If you have an insufficient amount of creative non-fiction, you may also include up to 10 double-spaced pages of short fiction as a substitute. For further information please contact our Creative Non-Fiction Chair Andreas Schroeder at apschroeder@dccnet.com.

Radio Drama: 20 pages (1/2 hr. drama).

Children’s Literature: 25 pages double-spaced text (no illustrations) in any genre or combination of genres. Work should be intended for children and young adults. If you have only adult work, submit work that best shows your ability to inhabit the voice of your characters.

Translation: 15 pages double-spaced, except poetry, which should be single-spaced (one poem per page). Submit translated work in English in any literary genre. Mail photocopies of original text only in Spanish or French; original does not count towards page requirement.

Lyric and Libretto: 20 pages. Pieces can be song lyrics or short prose/poems you deem conducive to being reworked as song. For libretto, submit 10-20 pages as text, with or without score. In addition to either of the above, a CD of up to three musical pieces may be submitted. Song lyrics, short prose/poems and libretto text should be sent as a file attachment to Pat Rose as per Manuscript Application Instructions on page 13.

Send audio format CD and a note to:

Meryn Cadell
UBC Creative Writing Program
Buchanan Room E462, 1866 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1 Canada

CREATIVE WRITING MFA APPLICATION FORM

Name:		
Address:		
Telephone:		
Email:		
Undergraduate degree:		
Date of graduation:	4 Year Degree? yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	Institution:
Other post-secondary schooling / degrees:		
Genres of writing samples included with this application:		
1. <i>(main genre)</i>		
2.		
3. <i>(if applicable)</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am applying for a Joint MFA in Creative Writing and Theatre. (Applicants for the Joint MFA in Creative Writing/Theatre need only submit stage play.)		
Genres you plan to study at UBC:		
1. <i>(main genre above)</i>		
2.		
3.		
<i>(You may list here a genre for which you have not included a writing sample.)</i>		
Additional: <i>(Listing more than three genres is optional.)</i>		