Bachelor of Fine Arts (Creative Writing)

In this course you will work intensively on your writing in a number of forms including novels, short stories, creative non-fiction, memoir, genre writing, and poetry. You will develop comprehensive editing skills as well as self-editing skills. You will learn about and engage with local writing contexts, as well as enter contemporary debates around ideas that illuminate and challenge what people write and how they write it. You will learn to think and write critically about texts. You will learn how to engage readers through emotional story telling.

Later in your degree you will choose electives to tailor your course to your strengths and vocational interests. You will write a sustained piece of creative work in a genre of your choice and participate in editing and developing a manuscript for a targeted market.

Why choose this course?
Writing is more central to our culture than ever before. The communication revolution demands written content—on the page, on the screen, and in new and evolving forms and places. Writers, storytellers and experts with nuanced and creative language are needed to provoke, entertain and connect to audiences in expanding ways.

QUT offers the largest and most comprehensive undergraduate writing course in South-East Queensland with the broadest range of units on offer. Within the BFA structure, you gain the deepest possible access to this knowledge. We take a transdisciplinary approach from the outset, encouraging you as a specialist creative writer to work in teams with others who have different creative skillsets. You will graduate with advanced writing and communication competence - a rare skill keenly sought by employers.

Visits from other writers, editors and publishers will further help you gain a unique perspective on writing as a vocation and as a critical and creative practice. Writers, editors and publishers regularly provide guest lectures for the benefit of students, and you’ll have access to the industry and national writing communities.

Real-world learning
The course is taught by highly experienced published authors and scholars. Visits and guest lectures from writers, editors and publishers will help you gain a unique perspective on writing as a vocation and provide access to the industry and national writing communities. A thriving on-campus literary culture and connections with festivals

Rebecca Jessen
Real graduate

‘I write because I love it and can’t see myself doing anything else. I chose QUT because it had produced a lot of successful writers. Many of my lecturers and tutors were writers themselves, and being surrounded by others just as passionate as I am was a wonderful experience.’
and local publishing houses will keep you connected with fellow travellers and industry tastemakers as you develop your craft.

Assumed knowledge
Before you start this course we assume you have sound knowledge in these areas:

- English

We assume that you have knowledge equivalent to four semesters at high school level (Years 11 and 12) with sound achievement (4, SA).

Course structure
Your course
To meet the course requirements of the Bachelor of Fine Arts (Creative Writing), you must complete the following:

- Two common units (KYB101 and KYB102) – 24 credit points
- Creative Writing major – 168 credit points
- Complementary studies – 48 credit points from the Situated Creative Practice Extension plus 48 credit points chosen from a minor or unit options (electives).

Year 1
- Introduction to creative writing practice.
- Develop critical and analytical skills in reading and writing a variety of literature forms.
- Learn from lecturers and tutors with industry experience.
- Write and analyse short stories, creative nonfiction and youth writing.

Year 2
- Build on practical skills and conceptual backgrounds.
- Study script-writing, stylistics, poetics and corporate writing.
- Explore how a variety of notable novels were written.
- Choose electives to tailor your course to your strengths and vocational interests.

Year 3
- Write a sustained piece of creative work in a genre of your choice.
- Participate in editing and developing a manuscript for a targeted market.
- Undertake an in-depth study of long fiction and life writing.
- Learn about the real world of the writing and publishing industry.
- Expand your study with electives in creative or other disciplines.

Study overseas
Study overseas while earning credit towards your QUT creative industries degree with one of our worldwide exchange partners.

Overseas study can be for one or two semesters (or during the semester break) and the units you take can be in a creative or non-creative discipline area, depending on how they match with your QUT course. Saving your electives for exchange will allow you the most flexibility.

Careers and outcomes
With a creative writing major you will graduate with advanced writing and communication capabilities as well as analytic and editorial experience. These are rare, real-world skills that are keenly sought by employers. Graduates also find success working as creative writers and editors in community and freelance capacities.

Opportunities exist as fiction writers, scriptwriters, reviewers, travel writers, feature writers, editors, publishers, media workers and teachers. The publishing and screen industries, advertising and public relations agencies, magazines, newspapers, digital content providers, government and large corporations all require specialist writers with a flair for language.

Double degrees
Combine creative writing with a second study area for greater career flexibility and opportunities in other industries.

Consider a double degree with:

- business to develop your career as a creative writer, publishing professional or public relations consultant
- law to use your skills for a career as an in-house lawyer, solicitor in private practice, policy adviser, intellectual property lawyer or crime writer.

If you are looking to apply your creative abilities to education settings or the teaching profession you have some options. You can complete your creative writing course first and then follow with a Master of Teaching in early childhood, primary or secondary education.* Or you can now undertake a double degree in secondary education at the same time as your creative writing degree.

*Check entry requirements for the Master of Teaching for specific teaching areas.