

# Master of Fine Arts - Creative Writing

## Plan Description

The MFA international program at UNLV enables writers to begin recognizing themselves and their art in relation to a larger understanding of writing in the world. The program's commitment to world literature provides a unique MFA experience that differs from many traditional creative writing programs. Admitted students follow three-year plans of study that includes literature and writing courses, time abroad, completion of a book-length manuscript of poetry, fiction or literary nonfiction, and a literary translation. In addition, the MFA program at UNLV is the nation's only creative writing program that gives credit to students who wish to spend their time abroad in the Peace Corps. The program's international emphasis is derived from the belief that the best writing is done by individuals who know that literature is something created from more than mere self-expression, and that great books are written by the few who know their gift is connected to the world they live in and who strive to create dialogue between private imagination and public concern. Graduates of UNLV's MFA program have gone on to publish books, secure tenure track teaching jobs, gain admission to Ph.D. programs, and enter the workforce as editors, writers, and arts administrators. UNLV also routinely supports recent graduates with part-time teaching opportunities in the department.

For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes please visit the Degree Directory.

## Plan Admission Requirements

Application deadlines Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission & Registration Requirements. Applicants for the M. F. A. in Creative Writing must submit the following to the English department: **1.** A strong manuscript of either poetry, fiction or literary nonfiction for the admissions selection process of approximately 10-15 pages for poetry and 20-30 pages for fiction and literary nonfiction. The primary consideration for admission is the quality of the manuscript as judged by the Creative Writing faculty. **2.** A letter of application to the Graduate Committee that includes a statement of purpose and reasons the applicant wants to study creative writing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. **3.** Applicants must send one official set of transcripts from all colleges or universities attended to the Graduate College ~~and one unofficial set directly to~~ **through the English Department Grad Rebel Gateway portal.** **4.** Two letters of recommendation to be sent directly to the ~~department Graduate College through the Grad Rebel Gateway portal.~~ There is a wide range of acceptability with regard to an applicant's previous record of ~~studies stud ies~~ and ~~major majo r~~ **major** field of ~~specializatio n~~ **specialization** as an undergraduate. Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

## Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below.

Subplan 1: International Focus Track

## Subplan 1 Requirements: International Focus Track

Total Credits Required: 54

### Course Requirements

#### Creative Writing Course – Credits: 12

Complete 9 credits in the chosen genre of concentration (either poetry, fiction or literary nonfiction) and 3 credits in another genre.

ENG 705 Creative Writing Workshop	3
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#### Required Courses – Credits: 6

ENG 739 M.F.A. Translation	3
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ENG 791 College Teaching in Language and Literature	3
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#### Forms of Fiction, Poetry, or Literary Nonfiction Course – Credits: 9

Complete 6 credits in the chosen genre of concentration and 3 credits in another genre.

ENG 729 Forms of Fiction, Literary Nonfiction, or Poetry	3
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#### Elective Courses – Credits: 9

Complete 9 credits of graduate literature courses not offered by the creative writing faculty of the Department of English.

#### Independent Study – Credits: 6

ENG 794 Independent Study - International Focus	3 – 6
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### Degree Requirements

#### Independent Study: International Focus

3 credits for the completion of a significant translation of superior quality from a language other than English and 3 credits for the writing of a substantial scholarly essay of at least 5,000 words on some aspect of a major world writer or field of literary study.

The strong international emphasis of the M.F.A. in Creative Writing requires all students to spend at least one semester or summer abroad in a non-English speaking country and to earn at least six credits toward the M.F.A. by enrolling in a university, school, or institute abroad and/or by Independent Study guided and monitored by a member of the Creative Writing faculty. For applicants with strong experience and demonstrable study and residency in a non-English speaking country and with significant foreign language skills, the study abroad requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Creative Writing faculty and of the Graduate College. The six required credits must then be earned in some other way, usually by taking additional 700-level Literature classes or 700-level classes in other disciplines, or a combination of these and 700-level Independent Study or additional Graduate Workshops.

In consultation with his/her advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

All candidates for the M.F.A. degree are required to write a creative thesis in either poetry, literary nonfiction, or fiction, and to complete at least 12 credits toward the creative thesis requirement by intensive work in conference with members of the faculty. The creative thesis for the M.F.A. will be a book-length manuscript and must conform to the guidelines set forth by the Graduate College in this catalog and in its Thesis and Dissertation Manual. The M.F.A. creative thesis will only be passed and the M.F.A. degree granted when the creative thesis is judged to be a substantial creative work of high seriousness and literary merit in the opinion of the Creative Writing faculty and the student's creative thesis committee.

### Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College and then apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing his/her degree requirements.

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

Student must submit his/her approved, properly formatted document to the Graduate College, and submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest by the posted deadline.

## Subplan 2 Requirements: Peace Corps Track

Total Credits Required: 42

### Course Requirements

#### Creative Writing Course – Credits: 12

Complete 9 credits in the chosen genre of concentration (either poetry, fiction, or literary nonfiction) and 3 credits in another genre.

ENG 705 Creative Writing Workshop	3
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#### Required Courses – Credits: 6

ENG 739 M.F.A. Translation	3
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ENG 791 College Teaching in Language and Literature	3
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#### Forms of Fiction or Poetry Course – Credits: 9

ENG 729 Forms of Fiction, Literary Nonfiction, or Poetry	3
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#### Elective Courses – Credits: 6

Complete 6 credits of graduate literature courses not offered by the creative writing faculty of the Department of English.

#### Thesis – Credits: 9

ENG 790 M.F.A. Thesis	3 – 12
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### Degree Requirements

Through the Peace Corps Master's International Partnership, students must apply to the Peace Corps during their first or second year in the program.

The entire program is a four-year obligation. Students complete their course work in two years instead of the usually required three, and write a thesis during their two-year Peace Corps assignment.

Students receive an MFA when they complete their Peace Corps assignment, receive a resettlement allowance, and then complete and defend the MFA thesis.

In consultation with his/her advisor, a student will organize a thesis committee of at least three departmental members. In addition, a fourth member from outside the department, known as the Graduate College Representative, must be appointed. An additional committee member may be added at the student and department's discretion. Please see Graduate College policy for committee appointment guidelines.

All candidates for the M.F.A. degree are required to write a creative thesis in either poetry, literary nonfiction or fiction, and to complete at least 12 credits toward the creative thesis requirement by intensive work in conference with members of the faculty. The creative thesis for the M.F.A. will be a book-length manuscript and must conform to the guidelines set forth by the Graduate College in this catalog and in its Thesis and Dissertation Manual. The M.F.A. creative thesis will only be passed and the M.F.A. degree granted when the creative thesis is judged to be a substantial creative work of high seriousness and literary merit in the opinion of the Creative Writing faculty and the student's creative thesis committee.

## Graduation Requirements

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College.

Upon return from the Peace Corps, students must:

Have faculty submit a grade change form for any X grades

Apply for graduation and pay the fee

If the student cannot graduate in the semester in which he or she returns, he or she must enroll in 6 graduate credits in the next semester

The student must submit and successfully defend his/her thesis by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public.

Student must submit his/her approved, properly formatted document to the Graduate College, and submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest by the posted deadline.

## Plan Graduation Requirements

Refer to your subplan for Graduation Requirements

Subplan 1: International Focus Track

Subplan 2: Peace Corps Track