

MA PROFESSIONAL WRITING AT FALMOUTH

WELCOME TO MA PROFESSIONAL WRITING AT FALMOUTH.

Your offer

Please remember that if you have been made a conditional offer to study at Falmouth, your place is subject to meeting those conditions.

If you need to ask us anything about your offer, get in touch with our Admissions team on 01326 213730, use Live Chat on our website or email admissions@falmouth.ac.uk.

First week of term

Your first day of attendance will be **Monday 25 September 2017**. Please report to **Seminar J, Daphne Du Maurier, Penryn Campus** at **9.30 am**.

During the first week, you will participate in a five-day introduction to the course, with a creative group project that will provide a chance to get to know each other. After that, we will work to the normal timetable – see below.

You can download a copy of the [Penryn Campus map](#) or the [Falmouth Campus map](#) from the Contact page of our website [here](#).

MyTimetable

<https://mytimetable.falmouth.ac.uk/> available from 14 September 2017

This is the link to MyTimetable, your online academic calendar which shows all scheduled learning activities and your course timetable. It will be available from 14 September 2017, however, timetables can be subject to change. To keep up to date, we recommend that you export the feed to your chosen device (mobile, tablet, laptop or desktop). An induction will be offered on the use of MyTimetable during Freshers 2017. Students have access to their individual student timetables, once they have completed their online enrolment and IT induction.

Pre-course preparation

Reading

Essential

It should go without saying, but you cannot hope to develop as a writer without reading both voraciously and reflectively.

If you are interested in a particular genre of fiction or non-fiction, we would urge you to read work by a range of successful authors working in that area. You probably won't need us to tell you who these are, but if in doubt, try browsing the 'Categories' section of online book stores. Of course, there is no need to limit your reading to bestsellers, but it is certainly useful to be aware of what publishers are likely to be looking out for.

If you are interested in writing for film and television, then you should be reading as many successful scripts and screenplays as you can. Many are available for free online. You should also be watching films, television dramas and online dramas. The broader your knowledge and understanding of film and television, the more it will inform your ability to write screenplays.

We would strongly recommend that you start keeping a reading diary, if you do not already do so. This is an excellent way to crystallise your thoughts about what works, or not, in a particular piece of writing, in terms of story, structure, style, characterisation and so on. The point is not to write an exhaustive review of everything you read, but to jot down a few notes about what you see as the most interesting/successful/problematic aspects.

It is also a good idea to start building your knowledge and understanding of the media and publishing industries by reading a variety of print and online publications. Again, the exact nature of your reading will depend partly on your interests, but below is a selection of resources that are free online or available in the Falmouth University Library:

- A quality newspaper every day. Approximately £2 to buy a physical copy, depending on preference.
- The Media and Books sections of the Guardian, New York Times and Huffington Post.
- Books on the BBC www.bbc.co.uk/tv/seasons/books/.
- Broadcast and/or Variety.
- Industry publications such as *The Bookseller*. These may be available in your local library. Also look at www.brandrepublic.com for business writing news and www.mashable.com for social media news.
- Follow 'Quietroom' and 'The Writer' on social media.
- Matthew Stibbe's 'Bad Language' blog.
- <https://26.org.uk/> is a lively network that brings together people who work with words for a living, as copywriters, web content managers, editors and in many other roles.
- Our book industry stories and course news. Follow us on Twitter @falwriting.

Tuition fees (per year)

2017-18 full-time UK/EU: £8,000

2017-18 full-time International: £15,000

During your course

Materials and equipment list and costs

Optional

While there are computer and printing resources on campus, you may find it useful to have access to a computer away from the campus. Prices vary but can range from around £129.99 depending on specification and choice.

Study trips and costs

Optional

There will be an optional trip to the London Book Fair on 14-16 March 2018. Students are required to organise their own transport and accommodation. Approximate costs may be:

- Train fare Falmouth to London return, approximately £60 - £100, depending on when booked.
- Accommodation in London: hotels are approximately £100 per night.
- Admission to LBF is free to students.

Reading – please see reading list below for essential texts.

Enrolment and Student Terms & Conditions

You'll get an email two weeks before the start of term telling you how to enrol online. You'll need to enrol before the first day of term to officially register as a student of Falmouth University and receive an undergraduate student loan.

When you enrol, you'll need to agree to and comply with the University's Student Terms & Conditions. These Terms & Conditions are important and we encourage you to read them carefully, before enrolling. You can find them under 'Student Terms & Conditions' on our [website](#).

Over the next few weeks we'll email you more important information about your course and life at Falmouth. If you're going to be away or out of contact, make sure you ask someone to check your emails and reply on your behalf.

We know all of this can seem overwhelming and preparing for your course can involve a lot. So we're here to help. If you have any questions at all, just get in touch with Admissions on 01326 213730, use Live Chat on our website or email admissions@falmouth.ac.uk.

Finally, we wish you an enjoyable and creative time before the course starts and we're looking forward to welcoming you to Falmouth in September.

Yours sincerely

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MA Professional Writing Reading List

Reading List Semester One

Essential

We recommend you purchase the following texts:

A good dictionary (*Collins or Chambers*). Available from £1.99.

A good thesaurus. Available from £3.99.

Kramer, M., *Telling true stories: a non-fiction writer's guide* RRP £13.99

Leith, S., *You talkin' to me? rhetoric from aristotle to obama*. RRP £8.99.

Yorke, J., *Into the woods: how stories work and why we tell them*. RRP £6.99.

These are also usually available second hand from Amazon.

Optional

The following are optional, but students have found them useful in the past:

King, S., *On writing*

Palumbo, D., *Writing from the inside out: transforming your psychological blocks to release the writer within*

Tutors may also ask you to read e-books, which are available from the library and do not need to be purchased.

Reading List Semester Two

Optional

Your reading for Semester Two will depend on the options you choose to take. Below is a selection of modular recommended books, to give you a taste of what you might be reading.

Non-fiction

Look at the huge variety of non-fiction books there are available next time you go to a bookshop.

If you want suggestions to get you started, you can begin with:

Holmes, R., *Footsteps: the adventures of a romantic biographer*

Winterson, J., *Why be happy when you could be normal?*

Business/Editorial

Leith, S. *You talkin' to me?: rhetoric from aristotle to obama*

Marr, A., *My trade: a short history of british journalism*

Simmons, J., *We, me, them & it: the power of words in business*

Try 26.org.uk an association of people who work as business writers – there is some interesting material here.

Novel

Essential Reading

Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore* (£6.99), and three novels in the genre in which you wish to write.

Screenwriting

Essential Reading

Parker, P., *The art and science of screenwriting* (Bristol, 2006) (Amazon £15.97)

Watch TV and films in the genres you are particularly interested in. You will be supplied with a list of accessible online film scripts, and recommended viewing before you begin the module.

Much of the reading you will be asked to do during the MA will be available online as e-books, as scanned material, or from the library. Tutors will supply short readings for seminars, and you will also be expected to research writing in your own field of interest, and to bring recommendations to class.

Meanwhile, you should be reading as widely as possible in different forms and genres but particularly in the genre you are most interested in writing yourself.

Finally, and most importantly, think about what you would like to write. If you have a story, start developing it. If you have ideas for features think about how you might research them. If you have an area of expertise, think about how you might incorporate it into your work.

The faster you can hit the ground running in the first week of the course, the further you will go during your time with us.