

Admissions and Degree Requirements for the MFA Program For the English Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Admission Requirements

All applicants for the Master of Fine Arts degree must submit a manuscript for consideration, consisting of 10-15 pages for poetry or 20-30 pages for fiction. Applications for Fall admission are due February 15. The quality of the manuscript as judged by the Creative Writing Faculty is the primary consideration for admission to the program. Candidates must also send the following materials:

- A letter of application that includes a statement of purpose to the Graduate Committee
- Two letters of recommendation from professors familiar with the student's academic work
- Two official sets of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Candidates must hold a BA or BS degree with an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or better and score in the 50th percentile or higher on the Verbal section of the GRE General Test.

Applicants must be sure to take the GRE exam well in advance of the 15 February admission deadline.

English 791

English 791, "Teaching College Language and Literature," is a required course for all MFA candidates awarded a Graduate Assistantship. However, this course does not count toward the credits needed for the MFA degree.

Degree Requirements

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing requires 54 credit hours of course work:

- 12 credits of Creative Writing. Students are required to take 9 hours in their primary genre and 3 in the other (poetry or fiction)
- 9 credits of Forms of Poetry or Fiction. Students are required to take 6 hours in their primary genre and 3 in the other (poetry or fiction)
- 9 credits in other graduate courses offered by the Department of English
- 6 credits must be earned abroad to fulfill the international component of the program
- 12 credits for thesis hours. Candidates work independently to complete a book-length thesis in either fiction or poetry, while under the direction of members of the Creative Writing faculty.

THESIS MANUSCRIPT

All candidates for the MFA degree are required to complete a thesis manuscript in either poetry or fiction. The thesis must be a book-length manuscript that conforms to all Graduate College guidelines and will only be passed when it is judged to be a substantial creative work of high literary merit in the opinion of the thesis committee. An oral exam will be given at the end of students' full-time study, at which time students will defend the manuscript completed during their course of study.

International Emphasis

The unique international focus of this program provides the opportunity to study the creative process across traditional borders of language and culture, giving the students a more global and contemporary perspective on their craft. The MFA Program's international emphasis requires that its students spend at least one semester abroad in a non-English speaking country. Six credits towards the degree must be earned by enrolling in a college or university abroad or by Independent Study monitored by a member of the Creative Writing faculty. Those applicants with significant foreign language skills and demonstrable residency in a non-English speaking country may be granted credit for the study abroad requirement, at the discretion of the Creative Writing faculty, when admitted.

Master's International/Peace Corps Program

The UNLV Creative Writing Program's Peace Corps Track is an innovative and unique way for young poets and fiction writers to meet the international obligations of our program, become bilingual, and serve the current needs of the third world. Through the Peace Corps Master's International Program, you may join the Peace Corps at the same time you enter our program, complete your course work in two years instead of the usually required three, and write your dissertation during your two-year Peace Corps assignment. The program is a four-year obligation, but you'll receive an MFA when you complete your Peace Corps assignment, get a resettlement allowance, and experience the Peace Corps first hand. Those interested in this program should contact Claudia Keelan, Director of Creative Writing (keelanc@unlv.edu) and a Peace Corps recruiter.