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TEF Gold

# MA Children's Literature and Literacies: Frequently asked questions

[www.bishopg.ac.uk](http://www.bishopg.ac.uk)



## When will the MA sessions take place?

The MA will be taught on one afternoon and one evening per week, and most likely on Wednesdays or Thursdays to fit in with the existing fleet of MAs at BGU, and is suitable for full-time and part-time students.

The planned format of the teaching sessions is 13.30 to 16.30 and 17.30 to 20.30, including a break. Part-time students will only need to attend the evening sessions.

(Please note that the above days and timings are indicative and subject to timetabling approval as well as demand for part-time study.)

## How many hours per week?

The academic year falls into three terms. The taught modules will take place in the winter and spring terms (which generally take place from September to January and then January to May respectively). The third term focuses on self-study with full-time students completing their dissertation and part-time students preparing for modules in their second year of study. For convenience we use the word semester.

Students will have 30 hours of contact during the 11-12 week delivery of the modules:

Part-time students will have one taught module per semester and will be expected to attend for 3 hours of taught time per week over 11-12 weeks, scheduled as shown above.

Full-time students will have two modules a semester. They will be expected to attend for 6 hours of taught time per week over 11-12 weeks as shown above.

Contact time for the taught sessions includes lecture-type input, seminar and tutorial time. It means that you will work in small groups as well as one to one with your tutor. Some of those weeks may be reserved for assessment.

In addition to this there is an expectation that you will undertake tutorials and independent study. 270 hours of independent study are recommended for each module, with up to 5 hours allocated for tutorial support. This may be arranged face-to-face, or by telephone, Skype or email.

## Can I work whilst studying full-time?

You are very welcome to undertake the course either as a full-time or part-time student. Many MAs at BGU are run on a full-time/part-time basis. However, we advise you to discuss arrangements with your employer before you enrol so that you know that you have the support or flexibility you need. Candidates wishing to follow the full-time route would need to be available for one afternoon and one evening session per week, and candidates following the part-time route would need to be available for a 17.30 start one evening per week. We advise you also to consider the workload in terms of independent study time. An estimate is that you may need at least double the time (hours specified as contact time) to both prepare and follow-up on what you have learned during contact time.

## How long does the course take?

For the full-time route the course will last a full year from September to September. Taught sessions will finish in May with time for tutorials and independent study prior to submitting your dissertation at the end of September. For the part-time route modules will be taught over two years from September to June, with submission of the dissertation in the December of the third year.

## What will the sessions be like?

MA sessions are based on small group sizes and can therefore be highly interactive with opportunities to learn through debate and in group-task scenarios as well as workshops. We value discussion and sharing of ideas and research methodologies to ensure that students understand the modules in terms of their methodological frameworks. Some sessions will have a more taught element but our aim is to provide an informal, collaborative and collegiate approach to study which is designed to enable you to pursue and develop your own areas of interest in the subject. Throughout we will invite you to engage with texts through detailed and directed analytical tasks.

## Is there any funding available?

Information on student finance is available from numerous sources and on the internet but its presentation can be a little confusing. At BGU, we try to give you all of the information and support we can in order to help you through the process. Our very experienced Student Advice team are experts in helping with funding arrangements; they offer a range of services to guide you – step by step - through all aspects of student finance.

Further details of funding and discounts are available at the following web address:

<https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/feesfunding/>

## I haven't studied for a while – what help can I access?

Many choose to undertake a postgraduate course after a number of years away from academic study. BGU can support you in a number of ways so that your transition back into Academia is both smooth and successful. The first module on the MA in Children's Literature and Literacies, for example, has been designed to provide an introduction to studying and writing at Masters' level. However, in addition to the taught sessions our Centre for Enhancement in Learning and Teaching (CELT) offers tailor-made sessions on specific study skills, such as academic writing, referencing and structuring assignments.

CELT can also help with digital technology and IT support, which you will need for your study, because in addition to new academic skills, you will also develop and hone transferrable skills. You will also be assigned a personal tutor who is available to offer advice relating to your studies throughout the duration of the course. Individual tutorials, offered for each module, are also designed to support you with planning and writing assignments and detailed feedback with clear targets for improvement will be given in each assignment. Student Advice and the Chaplaincy offer advice and can direct you to practical support on any wider issues which can impact on your studies.

## What progression routes are there following this qualification?

Completion of the MA Children's Literature and Literacies will give you the chance to further and develop your existing career or take it in a new direction. This interdisciplinary course has a strong professional and research development component and has been designed to meet the needs of a wide variety of learners, including Primary and Secondary school teachers, librarians and other professionals as well as enthusiasts to develop their knowledge and skills in relation to children's literature and literacies. It is designed to enhance employability and academic progression in these subjects.

Our careers service, BG Futures, is available to all students and can help you with your CV (development and writing) and as well as enable you to seek out new opportunities for personal development.

You will be assigned a personal tutor, who is a first port of call, and works alongside the Programme Leader, who will oversee the running and delivery of the MA. Your personal tutor will also discuss career options with you, as well as options for further study.

## How can I find out more?

We are running a dedicated postgraduate Open Evening on 30th April, from 4pm – 7pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the programme team and find out the latest information, as well as talking to students and having a campus tour, which includes our excellent library.

Book onto the Open Evening here: <https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/open-days-old/>

## Question not answered here?

Take a look at our dedicated webpage for the MA in Children's Literature and Literacies here: <https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/courses/childrensliterature>

Email or call our dedicated enquiries team: [enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bishopg.ac.uk) (Tel: 01522 527347)