

Creative Writing

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Whitireia and WelTec (Te Pūkenga) launch first micro-credentials for the publishing industry

In response to demand from organisations in the world of publishing and editing, Whitireia and WelTec (Te Pūkenga) has launched the first micro-credentials to support training and development in this sector. The two micro-credentials are NZQA-approved, with one covering [grammar and punctuation](#), and the other [copy-editing](#).

“There is a huge potential audience for these courses,” says Theresa Crewdson, a publishing tutor at Whitireia. “They are aimed at people already in the workplace who want to sharpen or develop their language skills, as well as people wanting to dip their toes into editing. The courses would be helpful for international students who want to brush up on their English.

“We put these together with strong support from the Aotearoa New Zealand publishing industry, who want a flexible, easy-to-access study and professional development option.”

Speaking on behalf of the Publishers Association of New Zealand, Claire Murdoch, Head of Publishing at Penguin Random House New Zealand says: “Publishers in Aotearoa keenly welcome the launch of these micro-credentials by Whitireia and WelTec. For a long time, we have sought to bring new people from diverse backgrounds into our wonderful industry and to upskill our mid-career people – wherever they might be based. We know the demand for this kind of learning is substantial. Whitireia’s expert publishing team has well-established connections to industry, and is superbly positioned to deliver high-quality tuition that will equip many more New Zealanders to work with words as part of their careers.”

“These micro-credentials are designed for self-directed study at your own pace,” says Theresa. “Each course will take up to 50 hours to complete through an online app called Moodle. A tutor will be available to support students in their studies. Participants have up to 10 weeks to complete each course, and we provide a suggested timeline for study. However, you can complete them more quickly if you want to.”

A micro-credential certifies achievement of a coherent set of skills and knowledge. It is smaller than a qualification and focuses on skill development opportunities not currently catered for in the regulated tertiary education system. Micro-credentials are worth 5–40 credits and are based on strong evidence of need from employers, industry and/or community.

“The micro-credentials are part of a suite of provisions from the Whitireia Publishing programme. For an insight into Whitireia Publishing, take a look at our [website](#); find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#); or sign up to our [newsletter](#), where you’ll receive regular updates and get a sense of our classes and activities,” concludes Theresa.

Further information on the micro-credentials can be found here: <https://www.whitireiaweltec.ac.nz/study-programmes/creativity/creative-writing-and-publishing/>

New Zealand Diploma in Writing for Creative Industries (Level 5)

📖	Level 5
🕒	1 year, full-time, part-time (study options)
📅	24 Feb 2025 (Distance)
💰	\$6,700 (indicative for 2023 intake)
🌐	\$21,724* (indicative for 2023 intake)

Learn the craft of writing through exercises, workshops, course reading, regular feedback, but most of all through writing itself. Develop skills in genres including short fiction, non-fiction, scriptwriting and poetry. This online programme offers flexibility through eight-week block courses, which means you can study around other commitments.

What you will learn

Develop your strengths, your critical eye, your knowledge of how the writing business works, and discover where you fit in the vast landscape of writing. Become part of a vibrant writing community.

Students may write and submit work in English or te reo Māori.

More detail about this programme

You can enrol on the New Zealand Diploma in Writing for Creative Industries as a one year, full-time diploma, or as a part-time student. This course is delivered online.

Some of the online writing courses are designed to build on one another, for example Short Fiction I. and Short Fiction 2. Two eight-week block courses are taught at the same time, so you can choose to do one, or try two at the same time to complete the full programme in one year. Each course is worth 15 credits and the programme should be completed within three years.

Courses

Poetry I

Are you interested in poetry? This course will take you through the many varied forms of writing poetry and introduce you to the Aotearoa/New Zealand poetry community. By the end of the course, you will have explored different ways of seeing, and created a portfolio of your own work, gaining a good understanding of what makes poetry work and how to critique it.

Culture & Contexts

Ever wondered where you fit in as a writer? This course introduces students to historical, social, and cultural influences writers engage with in their creative work. By identifying, and analysing personal preferences and experiences, students review their artistic and creative practice, explore a range of New Zealand writers and their work, discover social and cultural contexts of what it means to be a writer in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and give context to te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga Māori through creative writing.

Scriptwriting (screen)

Love films? If you want to write for the screen, this course is a great place to start. It provides an introduction to the craft of visual writing and the process of developing a screenplay. By the end of the course, you will have created your own script outline, and written a short film script – a good starting point into writing for the film industry.

Non-Fiction

Do you like working with the facts? Learn the skills of writing creative non-fiction for specified audiences and purposes through a range of factual forms. In this course, you will draw from memory and write a personal essay, write a feature article for a magazine, and create a proposal for developing a non-fiction book.

Short Fiction I

Do you have ideas for stories? If you want to develop your understanding of the craft of writing, Short Fiction I lays the foundations for creating engaging fiction. Each week you'll do writing exercises, engage your imagination, and work closely with other writing students. At the end of the course, you'll have a portfolio of short fiction, revised and polished with the support of online writing workshops.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is correct at the time of print. Whitireia and WelTec | Te Pūkenga reserves the right to cancel or postpone any of the programmes, and shall not be liable for any claim other than the proportion of programme fees that the cancelled portion bears. Some programmes may be dependent upon formal approval from NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority), TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) funding allocation, and the number of enrolments. As part of the NZQA targeted review of all Level 1-6 New Zealand qualifications, there may still be changes to some programmes starting in 2024. Fees, programmes, entry and selection criteria, and dates, are subject to change. Please check the relevant programme pages at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz for up-to-date information and full entry regulations before applying to enrol. Information regarding English language requirements is available on each course page at whitireiaweltec.ac.nz.

Short Fiction II

Are you ready to be challenged to develop your writing craft and technical skills? Through online workshops, you'll work closely with other writing students, critiquing work and growing your understanding of what makes writing come alive on the page. It is recommended that you complete Short Fiction I before Short Fiction II, as the learning in this course builds on Short Fiction I's foundations.

Writing for Children

Have you always wanted to write for children? Teaching material from renowned children's author, Joy Cowley, forms the core of this module, which guides you through the requirements of writing for young people and introduces you to the landscape of Aotearoa/New Zealand's children's authors. The course's main focus is on writing chapter books and short stories for children, but you will also have the opportunity to explore myth, folktales and fairy stories, children's non-fiction, and writing a picture book text.

Editing

Do you want to gain the confidence to edit your own writing? The editing module aims to improve writers' general ability to edit their own work to a high standard. It deals with common problems with grammar and style, using quick quizzes to test your learning, and teaches you the essentials of copy-editing. You will build your confidence by copy-editing a range of texts, with the support of feedback.

Entry requirements

NCEA Level 3 or equivalent qualification/work experience or New Zealand Certificate in Creative Writing (Level 4), and evidence of ability based on a portfolio.

The programme is suitable for school leavers and recommended secondary school subjects and levels and/or vocational pathways are English, Creative Writing, Social Studies, History, Geography, Media Studies and the Sciences.

International students

Proven equivalence of entry requirements plus IELTS 6.0 (no band lower than 5.5).

**International fee displayed is for 1 year of study (equivalent to 120 credits) and does not include insurance and administration (approximately \$924 per year of study).*

Related study options

[Graduate Diploma in Publishing \(Applied\)](#)

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