

Creative Writing and Publishing





‘Writing and editing have always been interests that have run underneath everything else, and I didn’t think you could do it for a living until I started the publishing course.’

Cadence

 Publishing

 Intern at Massey University Press

A passion for all things words

Cadence had always been an avid reader and writer, writing short fiction in their spare time. After high school, they went on to obtain a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature at Victoria University but had never been sure of how to get into the writing or publishing industry.

After graduating, Cadence found work in hospitality, and then at Transpower in Facilities management. It was work they enjoyed, but they wanted something they could really love, something creative.

One of Cadence’s favourite things is editing, so after they did a quick Google search, the Graduate Diploma in Publishing (Applied) at Whitireia and WelTec popped up, and Cadence enrolled.

Diving into study

“The publishing process itself was a big surprise to me! Being such a big reader, I thought I knew a lot, but there’s so much that goes on behind-the-scenes. The tutors really took us through the process from the ground up and gave us so much knowledge.”

The full-time Publishing programme has students work on real books with real publishing clients. It’s an intensive programme that introduces ākongā to the full process.

“An author and a publisher will come to the course with an unedited manuscript, and you’ll take it through

the whole process: editing, typesetting, proofreading, market research, costing, design, marketing, everything! Physically seeing the final product the first time one of our books arrived was incredible.”

Making connections

Throughout the programme, guest speakers frequently visit class to share their experience in the publishing industry. This includes publishers, print and web editors, eBook creators, designers, publicists, booksellers, and authors, allowing students to make industry connections early.

Joining Massey University Press

Cadence first started with Massey University Press at the end of January, after finishing the programme. They’re loving being in a small team of people with years of experience.

“The industry is so small – you get to do a bit of everything. You get to try all sorts of things out. It’s not a place you can get bored.”

“It’s crazy to think that I get paid to do this because I’m having so much fun. It doesn’t feel like a job.”

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



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

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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/>



‘There were also several opportunities during the course to have our writing exhibited, which I loved participating in.’

Sarah-Kate

 Creative Writing

 Poet

Sarah-Kate finished the Diploma in Writing for Creative Industries just last year, a full-time online programme with courses in scriptwriting, non-fiction, writing for children, poetry, short fiction and editing. Now Sarah-Kate is busy producing pieces for various anthologies and journals, attending open mic and book launches, and entering writing competitions.

Where did your passion for Creative Writing start?

I've been writing since I was a very small child. I was homeschooled, and my mum was very supportive of my love for writing and reading. She made sure I had the best possible resources to learn from and encouraged me to pursue my dreams.

What sort of work do you do in the creative writing and poetry space?

I am the creative writing equivalent of self-employed and do a variety of different kinds of work. Most of my work is focused on writing and preparing pieces for publications in various anthologies or journals. There are many available in New Zealand and overseas, and often they will pay to publish pieces. I will also enter writing contests and prizes.

On several occasions I have been paid to read my work at writing events, and I will often attend open mic sessions and anthology launches to further promote my work.

A significant part of the work in creative writing is marketing yourself, which means attending events and open mics and taking whatever opportunity available to get published and make your name known.

Why did you decide to study with us?

The Diploma in Writing for Creative Industries simply fit what I was looking for. I wanted to study writing, but didn't want to commit to a full degree.

How was your study experience?

I studied full time, online. I overall had a very positive study experience. The website was easy to navigate, and my tutors were amazing. There were also several opportunities during the course to have our writing exhibited, which I loved participating in.

Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

I hope to be even more widely published, preferably with some novels and poetry collections of my own out there. I'd love to put my training in script writing to good use and branch out in that direction. All writers dream of hitting the bestseller list, and I wouldn't say I'm averse to that happening either.

What would you say to someone interested in studying Creative Writing?

Go for it. It's such a unique and exciting field to work in, and Whitireia and WelTec is an awesome place to study with.

Follow the QR code below to read the full story.



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

📖 Level 5

🕒 1 year, full-time, part-time (study options)

💰 \$7,280 (indicative for 2025 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 blocks of teaching, 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.

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,

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.

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).

**For fee exclusions, please see [our terms and conditions](#).*

Related study options

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