

University of Victoria

MFA in Writing Handbook

How do I register?

You can register for most of your classes online at [UVic MyPage](#). You will be notified via email when registration dates open up for each term.

Some classes are registered through the department secretary such as [WRIT 590](#) or [WRIT 591](#) directed studies courses. These require a completed [Proposal for Pro Forma Course registration form](#).

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All second year students who have completed [WRIT 509](#) with an A- or better mark and a B+ average or higher in their first year courses, are invited to apply for a TAsip in their second year of study. Successful applicants will have aptitude for online teaching platforms like Coursespaces, strong interpersonal skills, an ability to deal with student conflicts and a proven track record of attending classes and meetings on time.

More postings for positions in other classes may appear throughout the year, in writing as well as other departments.

Which other scholarships should I apply to?

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) offers the [Canada Graduate Scholarship](#), providing \$17,500 in funding to successful applicants. Applications from fine arts students are generally accepted, as long as you meet

fine arts.

How does my committee get created?

A supervisor will be assigned based on your discipline within the department. Your committee is composed of two to three members of the teaching faculty, plus an additional chairperson for the oral defense. It is your supervisor's responsibility to form a committee with members from the department.

Where can I get some work done?

A graduate student office is provided in room FIA 226. If necessary, check with a second-year student about available desks, then settle in and make yourself comfortable.

[McPherson Library](#) provides a vibrant but quiet study atmosphere and various types of workspaces for almost any preference, including private multimedia editing suites at the [Music & Media Commons](#), and dedicated [study carrels](#) available to UVic graduate students (assigned annually from September to August on a first-come first-served basis).

What do I need to do to prepare for my defense?

Write, revise, rehearse, and then relax. You will need a strong piece of writing to defend. The second year of study is intended to be a period of intensive writing, so use it wisely and schedule time management well in advance. Once you have draft(s) submitted, study your own work to the point of confidently discussing or defending any aspect of it. With such a large project, there could be aspects of it
committee.

What are the deadlines for first and subsequent drafts of my Major Writing Portfolio?

on page 8.

Be sure to include all required elements and adhere to proper formatting by utilizing this [thesis template](#), provided by UVic Libraries.

Are there social events run by the Department of Writing?

A casual orientation lunch is planned each September for incoming and second-

year MFA students, who will be paired up as contacts for the rest of the year.

There are two poetry readings and reading held in both the fall and spring terms (November and January). These events take place in the homes of writing department faculty, who will present readings on one of the evenings, reserving the other for readings by grad s

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What's the best place to buy groceries?

East of campus:

< [Peppers Grocery](#)

If your last term is May – Aug.:

- Apr. 1 1st draft due to your supervisor
- Jun. 1 2nd draft due to your committee
- Jun. 15 If your committee approves, apply to graduate studies for an oral examination
- Jul. 1 Apply to graduate (fall convocation)
- Jul. 15 Last possible date for an oral examination (defense)
- Aug. 16 Revisions completed, submitted and approved
- Aug. 30 All requirements signed and submitted to graduate studies
- In November Convocation

If your last term is Sept. – Dec.:

- Aug. 1 1st draft due to your supervisor
- Oct. 1 2nd draft due to your committee
- Oct. 15 If your committee approves, apply to graduate studies for an oral examination
- Nov. 15 Last possible date for an oral examination (defense)
- Dec. 15 Revisions completed, submitted and approved
- Dec. 1 Apply to graduate (spring convocation)
- Dec. 22