Writing and Editing
Choose your own adventure

Have you always wanted to be a writer? Or do you just love tinkering with other people’s words?

Regardless of your goals – personal or professional – RMIT has a suite of contemporary, specialist programs from which you can choose. These are up-to-date and timely writing courses that respond to a changing industry.

Across these programs, RMIT teachers are experienced practitioners with strong industry connections. They nurture your passion for writing and editing, help you develop and hone your skills, and offer personal guidance for your creative and collaborative projects.

Guest writers, editors and publishing and screen professionals regularly attend classes and seminars. They give you vital industry knowledge and open up a world of networking opportunities.

The Gazette

During the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Emerging Writers’ Festivals in Melbourne, a cross-disciplinary team of RMIT writers, editors and designers collaborated to produce nine issues of a dynamic daily newspaper.

Founded by RMIT’s non/fictionLab research group and our in-house publisher, Bowen Street Press, The Gazette was published over the 11 days of the Emerging Writers’ Festival (EWF) in print and online by students from the Writing & Publishing, Creative Writing disciplines.

The students were organised into roles simulating an old fashioned news room, only with laptops and a high-speed risograph printer replacing typewriters and printing presses.

An agile editorial team and on-the-ground reporters were integrated into the ‘vertical studio’ structure, bringing together associate degree, graduate diploma, undergraduate, masters and higher degree research students into an intensive collaborative environment working to real-life deadlines.

Industry partners and connections

Located in the heart of literary Melbourne, RMIT works with industry partners to offer fellowships and Work Integrated Learning opportunities. RMIT students move from in-house publications and events, to external festivals and job opportunities.

Close relationships exist with the Melbourne Writers Festival, Emerging Writers’ Festival, Writers Victoria, Australian Writers’ Guild, Institute of Professional Editors, non/fictionLab, and Writers’ Immersion and Cultural Exchange Program (WrICE) and the Melbourne Visiting Poets Program.
Jay Carmichael

Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing
Bachelor of Arts (Creative Writing)
Master of Writing and Publishing

Author, Ironbark, shortlisted for the 2016 Victorian Premier’s Unpublished Manuscript Award and published by Scribe.

RMIT’s writing programs connect with and complement each other. Students often build a pathway through these programs to gain a broad set of skills and understanding of the industry.

I first studied the Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing and then the Bachelor of Arts (Creative Writing) at RMIT, before finally enrolling in the Master of Writing and Publishing.

RMIT’s hands-on, practical approach appealed to me as the best way to develop my skills and see my craft in action.
Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing

Whatever your goal – write a novel, start an online magazine, work as a freelance editor – this program will support and inspire you.

You’ll start by gaining a broad base of skills in fiction, creative nonfiction, professional communication, digital content, grammar and editing. Then you’ll specialise in your preferred areas, with a focus on building a writing portfolio, developing practical projects and engaging with the industry and readers.

Clover Press projects
RMIT’s own program imprint, Clover Press, offers a diverse range of publishing projects on which you can “cut your teeth”. You can work with Diploma of Photoimaging photographers on editing their photobooks. You can write and edit commissioned material, such as RMIT’s Guide Melbourne booklet for international students. The Cardigan Street website offers a platform for magazine content. And the student-run Visible Ink anthology is now in its 30th year.

Flexible delivery
This program is suited to either full- or part-timers. All core courses and many electives are offered in the evening as well as the day, and most daytime seminars are recorded for later listening. Industry placements and internships – an opportunity for rich learning – can be organised to suit your schedule. You may also participate in study tours and an overseas student exchange.

Where will I work?
Graduates go on to work as writers, editors, journalists, publicity and communications officers, social media writers and copywriters across varied industries including publishing, government, non-government, arts and cultural organisations.

Kate Mildenhall
Associate Degree in Professional Writing and Editing
Author of Skylarking, Black Inc, 2016

The teaching staff and students in the program are extraordinary. Writing the manuscript of Skylarking and getting it published by Black Inc. would have been impossible without the Associate Degree.

Quick facts
What is an Associate Degree?
An Associate Degree is a two-year university qualification that is taught in a vocational setting. You will graduate with industry skills ready to enter the workforce, and you can also continue on to further study towards a related Bachelor Degree.

How many contact hours and self-directed study are required per week?
Full-time: 20 hours per week.
Part-time: contact hours vary according to number of courses enrolled.

Are evening classes available?
Many courses are offered at night as well as during the day.

How many students are in each class?
The average is between 20 and 25.

Will I require extra materials and how much do they cost?
You will need to buy set texts, but total cost will be under $200 per year. You will need to pay for your own printing and photocopying, as needed.

Do I need my own computer or any other special equipment or software?
RMIT strongly recommends that you have your own computer. However, you may use computers in RMIT libraries and access computer lab facilities on campus.