



international
Creative Writing
summer school



4-29 June 2018

British Council and Kingston Writing School

International Creative Writing Summer School 2018 Athens – Thessaloniki



Literature is a thriving and integral part of the United Kingdom cultural sector and there is a longstanding tradition of well established creative writing courses and programmes at UK universities, allowing for multiple opportunities to learn about all aspects of writing. In an attempt to explore British creative writing methodologies and with the aim to raise awareness of the wide range of UK literary production, back in 2013, the British Council in Greece joined forces with Kingston Writing School and Kingston University and launched the first International Creative Writing School in Athens. The Summer School is held on an annual basis every June in Athens and since 2014 in Thessaloniki as well. Remaining faithful to its commitment for continuous improvement, this year the Summer School comprises a series of engaging and up-to-date workshops, combining the practice of writing skills (Fiction, Flash Fiction, Poetry, Non-Fiction, Genre Fiction) with an exciting Publishing and Editing course and a Writing for the Web. Once again students are offered the opportunity to explore their potential and extend their knowledge in a vibrant atmosphere of mutual respect.

The International Creative Writing Summer School aims to create a space for meaningful dialogue and exchange of ideas between writers from across the world at what is a dynamic and ever-changing time in Europe. The synergy of the British Council and Kingston Writing School will provide a unique learning experience with an international approach and outlook. The Summer School is designed to provide writers with an opportunity to work with leading writers/academics associated with the Kingston Writing School, enabling them to enhance their writing skills, no matter what the extent of their experience or aspiration is, and maximise the resonance and quality of their work. The Summer School also provides students with networking opportunities, thus increasing mutual understanding, building connections between UK writers and their counterparts in Greece, Europe and around the world and creating an international community of writers.

Welcome

Tony Buckby Director, British Council Greece

The International Creative Writing Summer School becomes more exciting every year as more writers are involved, courses are added and an increasing number of people choose to have the unforgettable experience of joining a programme that has richness, variety and vitality.

The partnership between Kingston Writing School and the British Council has created a winning formula which builds on the success of the programme over the last five years in nurturing individual expression in a stimulating and supportive environment. This is definitely the programme for you if you want to discover new insights, develop your writing with the help of others, benefit from opportunities for cultural exchange and have a wonderful time in a fascinating city. This really is your chance to join in something very special.

Everyone involved in the organisation of the International Creative Writing Summer School will be working hard to make absolutely certain that every aspect of the programme reflects high quality, great professionalism and real value. Join us in Athens or in Thessaloniki and look forward to developing your voice as a writer while knowing you can become part of a new community and engage with other writers for years to come.

Dr. David Rogers Senior Emeritus Fellow, Kingston Writing School

The Kingston Writing School continues to cherish our on-going partnership with the British Council in Greece, and everyone associated with KWS looks forward with great excitement to what will now be our Sixth Annual International Creative Writing Summer School. We have come a long way since that first October afternoon in 2011 when a young University of Athens student asked if we had ever considered offering a summer school! And this year the Summer School has evolved once again as we explore still more pertinent and inspiring ways of engaging with writers of all experiences from across the world in the beautiful cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

In Athens, we once again offer three of our most popular courses - Flash Fiction, Fiction, and Poetry. The first two will be taught by first time teachers Paul McVeigh and John Man, both highly esteemed writers in their respective fields, and the third by award-winning poet Siobhan Campbell, who returns by popular demand after an absence of five years. We again have Judith Watts, former managing director of Kingston University Press, back to teach Publishing and Editing, her course having previously proved such an enormous hit in Thessaloniki initially and in Athens last year; and award-winning blogger Sinead Keegan, co-founder of the increasingly influential online publication *all the sins* (italics), who has updated her course Writing for the Web.

In response to requests from past students and applicants, we have also added a course on Genre Fiction taught by the multi-talented science fiction and children's literature writer N.M. (Nicky) Browne. And, last but in no way least, the acclaimed author and teacher Heidi James will shift her highly popular course in Flash Fiction from Athens to Thessaloniki.

As always, the writers leading all of the courses will bring a huge wealth of knowledge and insight into the classroom. They will ensure that the atmosphere in the courses will be - as they have always been - stimulating, inspiring, respectful, sociable and fun. With their guidance and support you will be able not only to develop your writing, whatever your current experience, but also to gain valuable transferrable skills that will help you in many areas of your life and work.

With the Summer School taking place within the context of the UNESCO World Book Year when Athens is UNESCO World Book City, there could not be a more exciting time to attend and become a part of our growing community of students and writers who have benefited from our courses over the first five years and continue to engage with us as part of our community of writers. So what are you waiting for? Sign up now for one or more of our courses and make this June in Athens and/or Thessaloniki extra special, as it will be for all of us at KWS.



04 - 29 June 2018

Course programme

Courses are designed for an international audience and will provide participants with the skills and expertise needed by writers today.

This year, the Summer School offers students the opportunity to hone their writing skills, practise writing fiction, flash fiction, non fiction and poetry, and extend their knowledge of publishing, editing and writing for the web under the supervision and guidance of highly accomplished writers and academics.

Experienced writers associated with the Kingston Writing School and Kingston University, London will work in small groups with writers from across the world on an intensive programme which involves workshops, a range of writing activities, group discussions, readings and one-to-one tutorials. Learning will be challenging, enjoyable and engaging.

Students may choose from six one-week courses in Athens and a one-week course in Thessaloniki. Courses will be held in English, are suitable for writers at all levels and may be taken separately or in combination.

Who is it for?

- Greek and international writers of all levels (from emerging to accomplished)
- English language teachers, academics, journalists, columnists, copy editors, publishing and creative professionals who want to enhance their writing skills
- Anyone with a passion for good writing

The International Creative Writing School will:

- give writers the opportunity to explore their imaginative and expressive potential, to develop their own voice and to raise their awareness of the technical and compositional issues associated with writing
- improve students' critical abilities and writing skills through constructive engagement with the work of their peers and build up their confidence in writing
- create new and strengthen existing relationships and ties with professionals in the field of literature from the UK, Greece and beyond
- provide a vibrant network for professional development and mutual support
- increase the sense of belonging to an international community of writers



04 - 29 June 2018

Athens writing courses

Flash Fiction with Paul McVeigh 4-8 June

Non-Fiction with John Man 4-8 June

Fiction with Suzy Joinson 11-15 June

Poetry with Siobhan Campbell 11-15 June

Writing for the Web with Sinead Keegan 18-22 June

Genre Fiction (Science Fiction, Young Adults and Children's Literature) with N.M. Browne 18-22 June

Publishing / Editing with Judith Watts 25-29 June

Thessaloniki writing course

Flash Fiction with Heidi James 18-22 June

Early bird registration deadline:

30 April 2018

Deadline for registration:

21 May 2018

Athens

Flash Fiction with Paul McVeigh

4–8 June 2018

- Designed for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to enhance their skills for writing flash fiction and short fiction
- Participants will explore and discuss flash fiction and micro literature from a variety of authors and consider from where they gain their inspiration and will have the chance to experiment with voice and style.
- Workshops will centre on exercises, constructive feedback, experimentation and discussion in a supportive and friendly atmosphere



Paul McVeigh's short fiction has appeared in journals, anthologies and on BBC Radio 3, 4 & 5. His debut novel, *The Good Son*, has won 2 awards in the UK and

his writing has been translated into 7 languages. He is the co-founder of London Short Story Festival, associate director at Word Factory the UK's national organisation for excellence in the short story and he judges international short story competitions. Paul has represented the short story form for the British Council in Mexico and Turkey and is currently shortlisted for the Irish Short Story of the Year. He has read his work and taught flash fiction at the UK's Flash Fiction Day celebrations and at the UK's first Flash Fiction Festival in 2016.

Non-Fiction with John Man

4–8 June 2018

- Suitable for aspiring and experienced non-fiction writers and journalists
- The students will examine strategies related to five key stages in the development of their writing, such as content (choosing your subject), sources (gathering the raw material, structure (turning facts into narrative), style (academic versus populist) and marketing (agents, contracts and public relations)



John Man writes on Inner Asia, in particular Mongolia and north China. After studying languages at Oxford, John did post-graduate courses in the History and

Philosophy of Science (Oxford) and Mongolian (SOAS, London). Training as a journalist with Reuters, he joined Time-Life Books, becoming European Editor. In the 1970s he began writing non-fiction. From the 1990s, when the Soviet Union collapsed, John has focused on Mongolia. He has travelled extensively, exploring the Gobi desert (*Gobi: Tracking the Desert*, 1997), the valley where Genghis Khan died in north-west China, the mountain on which he may be buried, and Xanadu, Kublai Khan's first capital. *Genghis Khan: Life, Death and Resurrection* is a best-seller in 22 languages. The 14 books in print include *Attila the Hun*, *Kublai Khan*, *The Terracotta Army*, *The Great Wall*, *Xanadu* (published in the US as Marco Polo, to accompany the Netflix TV series) and *The Mongol Empire*. *Saladin* appeared in April 2015, and his latest, *Amazons*, in June 2017. In 2007, John was awarded Mongolia's Friendship Medal for services to Anglo-Mongolian relations.

Athens

Fiction with Suzy Joinson

11–15 June 2018

- Designed for writers seeking to enhance their fiction writing skills, in particular novels and short stories
- An accessible approach to creating a manageable shape from first drafts and first ideas, helping writers to take their work to the next level
- Explores technical approaches including: character, sense of time and place, narrative development, plotting and voice



Suzy Joinson is an award winning writer with two novels published by Bloomsbury (*The Photographer's Wife* and *A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar*) as well as numerous pieces published in a range of places including the New York Times, Guardian, and the Independent. She won the Creative Non-Fiction New Writing Ventures Award and has been long-listed for the IMPAC award.

Poetry with Siobhan Campbell

11–15 June 2018

- Designed for aspiring and continuing writers who want to develop and enhance their poetry writing skills
- Students will participate in poem-building and inspiring exercises to write from the natural world, from lived experience and speculatively
- They will be encouraged to bring their poems to life via form, music and meaning, and during the week of workshops we will read striking examples of contemporary work



Siobhan Campbell is a leading contemporary poet and the author of five collections, most recently *Heat Signature* from Seren Press. Siobhan has been awarded prizes in the National and Troubadour International competitions and she won the Oxford Brookes International Poetry Prize in 2016. Siobhan's work is included in canonical anthologies including *Identity Parade: New British and Irish Poetry* (Bloodaxe) and *Womens' Work: Twentieth Century Writing in English* (Seren). Known as an inspiring teacher and reader, Siobhan's wryly humorous work has been termed 'fierce and luminous - torpedoes lined with feather strokes' by Bernard O'Donoghue, Oxford poet and critic.

Writing For The Web with **Sinead Keegan**

18-22 June 2018

- Designed for aspiring and accomplished writers looking to become more familiar with and confident using the internet for their writing
- Focuses on the opportunities offered by the internet for writers of all types, looks at examples of successful internet writing and considers the pros and cons of different platforms
- Examines the process of publishing online with specific reference to digital arts publications and the opportunities available to both emerging and established writers



Sinead Keegan is a writer, blogger, lecturer and editor. Her blog, Finding Home, has been short and longlisted annually for Blog Awards Ireland 'Best Arts and Culture

Blog' and 'Best of the Diaspora' for five years running. She is co-editor and founder of *All the sins*, a quarterly digital arts publication that embraces the ability of the internet to increase artistic discourse and to push art past accepted boundaries. She is the founder and coordinator of the Stories of SW1 annual writing competition. She has an MFA in creative writing and lectures in creative and critical writing at Kingston University and London Metropolitan University. She regularly writes web and print content for various corporations and non-profit organisations. Her poetry and short stories have been published in print and online in publications including *Magma* and *The Lake*.

Genre Fiction (SciFi/Children's and Young Adults Literature) with **N.M. Browne**

18-22 June 2018

- Designed for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to develop and enhance their writing skills
- Explores the key elements involved in effective storytelling, in particular the techniques used in writing genre fiction: SF/Fantasy, historical, crime, children's and YA writing etc
- It will combine practical exercises with analytical feedback all based around the workshop plus individual tutorials to help participants work on developing their own writing practice



Nicky Browne is an experienced creative writing teacher with a PhD in Creative Writing. She has published nine Young Adult novels, eight books for young children with Bloomsbury and is working on an historical novel for adults. She has been twice nominated for the prestigious Carnegie Medal for children's literature.

Athens

Publishing / Editing with **Judith Watts**

25–29 June 2018

- Presents tools and processes for editing work, sending out submissions, writing a synopsis, approaching agents and getting paid
- Explores the current publishing landscape across genres to help participants assess how to best share their writing
- Discussions will focus on issues such as types of publishers, the benefits of digital editions, the use of social media platforms and the global market place



Judith Watts is a practitioner in the business of reading and writing. Running alongside a varied career in publishing she taught Publishing at Master's level for ten years at Kingston University (where she received her MFA in Creative Writing). Judith is a published poet, and author in the best-selling Hodder Teach Yourself Writing series. She is currently Visiting Lecturer at City University and University College, focusing on authors, content and professional development. She works with publishers editorial and marketing projects, and with writers to bring their work to market.

Thessaloniki

Flash Fiction with **Heidi James**

18–22 June 2018

- Suitable for all writers who want to experiment with extraordinary storytelling
- Draws on exercises, workshops and individual feedback to develop confidence, skill and knowledge
- Explores the range and potential of the micro or flash fiction genre as a stand-alone genre and as a route to closely examining the 'foundation' of the story for longer works



Heidi James' s novel *So the Doves* is The Sunday Times Crime Novel of the Month. *Wounding* was also published by Bluemoose Books in April, 2014. Heidi was a finalist for the Cinnamon Poetry Collection Prize. Her novella *The Mesmerist's Daughter* (published by Neon Press in April 2015) won the Saboteur Award. Her novel *Carbon*, was published by Blatt and is published in Spanish by El Tercer Nombre.

SUMMER SCHOOL Overview

Locations

British Council, 17 Kolonaki Square,
106 73, Athens (nearest tube station
Syntagma or Evangelismos)
2103692336

British Council, 43 Tsimiski Street,
546 23, Thessaloniki

Deadline for applications

- Early bird: 30 April 2018
- 21 May 2018

Entry requirements

- Applicants should be able to demonstrate a high level of written and spoken English (equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.5 overall and 7.0 in the writing module).
- They will also be required to submit a sample of their work in English: either a selection of poems (six poems) or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words, depending on the course they have chosen.

Course fees

One-week courses: €380

- 15% discount for applicants, based in Greece €320
- 10% early bird discount for all applications received by 30 April, €340
- Combined discount: €285
- You can apply for more than one courses and get advantage of the extra 5% discount (€270 per course)

Course length

One-week courses:
12.5 workshop hours +
individual/small group tutorials

Certificates

Certificates of achievement will
be awarded upon completion.



You can watch the
International Creative Writing
Video here:

<https://vimeo.com/112412858>

How to apply

How to apply?

To apply, please email the completed application form to Maria Papaioannou at

Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr (telephone: +30 210 369 2336).

The form must be accompanied by a sample of your work in English: either a selection of poems (6 poems) or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words, depending on the course you have chosen

Accommodation

Accommodation is the responsibility of individual applicants

How do I pay the course fee?

Once we've confirmed your participation on the course(s) of your choice, we'll ask you to pay the course fee.

- If you are resident in Greece, you can make the payment in cash or by credit card (VISA, DINERS and MASTERCARD) at our Athens office (17 Kolonaki Square, 106 73 Athens), Monday to Friday, 09.00–14.30.

- If you are resident in Greece but cannot visit our Athens office or you are an international applicant, you can make the payment by direct deposit to the British Council bank account:

Citibank account number:
0/444215/003
IBAN: GR51 0840 0010 0000 0044
4215 003

Please quote your name followed by 'Creative Writing' in the 'Αρτιλογία' field on the deposit slip (e.g. Eleni Papanikolaou, Creative Writing).

Scan the bank deposit slip and send to Maria Papaioannou by email at Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr

General conditions

- We reserve the right to make changes to the course content and programme details
- We reserve the right not to open a class with fewer than six students. Fees will be refunded
- No refunds will be made after the course has started
- Places cannot be guaranteed until course fees have been paid
- Normally the maximum number of participants per course will not exceed 12.



“From the day I applied for this course, my expectations were really high! The result and the content of the course in general went truly beyond my expectations! It was perfect in every aspect!”

participant Fiction Writing course 2016

“The courses apart from being really enjoyable, were also held in a stress-free environment – provided by both the tutors and the facilities – something which further enhanced the educational value of the course”

participant Publishing / Editing course 2016

The summer school partnership between the British Council and the Kingston Writers' School offers students a great chance to hone their writing, develop new ideas, and engage with professional writers from the UK. During my time teaching on the Summer School program I met a diverse set of talented writers who produced some truly memorable work. I recommend the summer school to students across Greece, but also the world.

Tutor, Kingston Writing School





“The teachers were great and the material they shared with us was truly unique and inspirational”

participant Advanced Fiction Writing course 2016

“The quality of teaching was excellent. I enjoyed exchanging ideas and book titles”

participant Publishing / Editing course 2016

“The International Creative Writing Summer School is a rich cast of different characters, writers from all over the world, with different approaches. The feedback on your work is excellent and wide-ranging”.

Poet / participant Poetry writing course (2017)

About

British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. With offices in over 100 countries the British Council plays a major role in building skills, connecting educational and arts institutions and supporting cultural and economic development.

In the Arts we work with the best of British and international artistic and creative talent to develop events and collaborations which link thousands of artists, organisations and audiences worldwide. We showcase the best of contemporary UK talent, work across all art forms and organise a wide range of activities, including festivals, exhibitions, conferences, seminars and workshops, as well as exchange and networking events. In addition we partner with others on joint Arts projects and help develop creative leadership, professional networks and cultural educational programmes worldwide.

<http://www.britishcouncil.gr/>

Kingston University and Kingston Writing School

Kingston University, London is a publicly funding institute of Higher Education, and its School of Humanities in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences offers both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Creative Writing. Its Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing was the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. Staff on the University's courses are all active professionals with experience teaching creative writing and publishing in Higher Education who publish widely and to acclaim across a range of genres.

As part of its distinctive programme of writing courses, the School of Humanities is supported and complemented by the Kingston Writing School. Launched in April 2010, the Kingston Writing School (KWS) is a research group within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at KU. It brings together staff and students of Kingston University with an international community of writers, journalists and publishers whose engagements with KWS through readings, lectures, tutorials, supervisions, workshops and community projects help to create a unique learning environment for Kingston students while providing a vibrant network for professional development.

<http://www.kingston.ac.uk/>

