

The Arts Council and University of Galway invite applications from mid-career and established writers for Writer in Residence for the calendar year 2024.

The Arts Council Writer in Residence programme was established to provide a stimulating environment for the resident writer and afford them a degree of financial support to concentrate on their own practice. Additionally, the residency brings energy and dynamism to the university and allows students and faculty to engage with a practicing writer for a concentrated period.

### 1.1 About the residency

The Writer in Residence will be engaged for the calendar year 2024 and will be situated in the Creative Writing programmes in the School of English and Creative Arts at NUI Galway, with the opportunity to engage with the wider campus.

The residency will be divided into two parts:

1. From January to June 2024 the Writer in Residence will be supported to engage with students and staff. This programme of engagement will be designed by the resident writer, in consultation with the faculty of the university, and may include focused teaching, workshops, mentoring, public events or other activities which bring new energy to the Creative Writing programmes. Contact time with staff and students during this time will be capped at 4 hours per week, and the writer will not be expected to deliver core curriculum.
2. From July onwards, the writer will be supported to concentrate on his or her own practice.

The fee to the Writer in Residence is €30,000, with the Arts Council contributing €20,000 and the university €10,000. University of Galway will provide the Writer in Residence with a dedicated space, where they can conduct their own creative practice within the university. NUI Galway will also support the residency administratively.

The entire fee will be paid to the writer directly by the Arts Council. It will be paid in two instalments, with a final report by the writer at the conclusion of the residency to be submitted to the Arts Council.

### 1.2 Arts Council – University of Galway Writer in Residence

The Writer in Residence will engage with students on the university's specialist BA Creative Writing programme who are working on independent extended writing projects during their 3rd year. This may take the form of classes/clinics/workshops/consultations or other modes of adding value to the students' ongoing core work with their university teachers. The Writer may also provide workshops for postgraduate Creative Writing students – these may focus separately or in combination on students on the MA in Writing and PhD students working on practice-led projects in English/Creative Writing. The broader community/public engagement contribution may take varied forms, depending on the Writer's own interests and ideas, and this aspect can be discussed and planned well in advance.

### 1.3 Who May Apply?

The award is open to **mid-career and established writers** working in prose fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and children's fiction and poetry.

To be **eligible to apply**, applicants must:

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- Have a publishing track record in at least one of these areas: prose fiction (incl. graphic fiction), poetry, creative non-fiction, children's fiction or poetry. Applications from writers who have not published in one or more of these areas will not be considered. Writers working exclusively as playwrights are not eligible for this residency.
- **Be mid-career or established writers.** For the purpose of the Arts Council residency programme, mid-career and established is defined by the Arts Council as writers and illustrators with a demonstrable publishing track record, having published at least one full collection, novel or picture book with an independent, recognised publisher.
- The residency is only open to writers who have not undertaken an Arts Council/university residency in 2023. This is to ensure that a range of artists can avail of these unique opportunities.
- In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the Arts Council is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, the Arts Council notes the ground of socioeconomic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed. The Arts Council therefore welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above.

#### **1.4 Making an Application**

To make an application, writers should provide the following three documents:

1. A detailed proposal of 1-2 pages, which sets out how they would propose to engage with students, staff and the wider campus, and relevant experience to support this approach.
2. A one page artist's statement, which describes how the residency could impact on the artist's practice.
3. A detailed CV, setting out artistic achievements and accomplishments. This should be no longer than 3 pages.

Applications should be sent to Creative Writing Administrator, Dearbhla Mooney, at [dearbhla.mooney@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:dearbhla.mooney@universityofgalway.ie) by **5.30 pm on Thursday, 9 November**. Applications will be accepted by email only. Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.

#### **1.5 Assessment Process**

Upon receipt of applications, the Arts Council and University of Galway will determine the eligibility of applications.

Your application will be deemed ineligible, and will not go any further in the process, if any of the following is true:

1. You miss the application deadline.
2. You do not meet the eligibility requirements outlined in 1.3.
3. You do not submit the three required documents as outlined in 1.4.

Following this, the Arts Council and University of Galway will establish a selection committee, which will be made up of one representative from University of Galway, one from the Arts Council and an external panellist with literary expertise. The selection committee will shortlist applicants based on the following criteria:

- artistic track record of applicant
- quality of idea/approach (referred to above), as outlined in the application, and the potential impact it could make on the relevant university department and university as a whole
- potential impact of residency on writer's own creative practice

A shortlist will be established (of no more than 4 writers). Shortlisted writers will be called to interview in early December. The interview will be held via video conference call. The interview will allow the shortlisted writers to discuss their plans and experience in more detail. The panel will make the final decision based on the above criteria and decisions will be communicated in December 2023.