

Athens International Creative Writing Summer School

17 June–13 July 2013

The Kingston Writing School and the British Council Greece are launching their first annual international creative writing school in Athens. The Summer School provides opportunities for writers from across the world to work with experienced writers from Kingston University, London and visiting writers from Greece in the beautiful city of Athens.

Students may choose from three two-week courses and one four-week course. Workshops in each course will be scheduled between 18.00 and 21.00, Monday to Friday, with extracurricular activities including readings, panel discussions and trips throughout the week, including Saturday mornings.

The four-week course is open to writers working in any conventional genre, while the final two-week course invites applications from poets and/or prose writers. During the first two weeks we will also offer two two-week intensive specialist courses, one for poets and the other for prose writers.

All courses will be taught in a relaxed yet intensive environment in which students from all courses will form a single cohort with the teaching staff. Workshops will allow writers to develop skills necessary to craft poetry, drama/film, non-fiction and/or a prose fiction work of any length, whether novel, short story or novella.

The three-hour workshops will include close reading of every student's work, analysis of examples from literature, classroom exercises, writing time and group discussion and debate.

Courses will typically contain no more than 12 participants.

Certificates of achievements will be awarded upon completion.

Courses Details

1. Intensive Prose Writing Course, two-week course: 17–29 JUNE

This two-week course is designed primarily for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to develop and enhance their prose writing skills. Taught by two acclaimed novelists and non-fiction writers, the course will combine precise comments in peer-led workshop sessions with individual feedback on written drafts to help students develop their own voice more confidently while learning more about a range of elements crucial to writing good fiction and/or non-fiction. These two weeks are a chance to work intensively on your prose writing in a focussed atmosphere of study and respect. The course suits anyone with a passion for good writing, and a reader will be provided.

Rachel Cusk will teach the first week of the course. Workshops will provide an opportunity for students to receive comments on their work from their peers as well as the workshop teacher. The emphasis will be on discussions and exercises that will help students to discover, explore and enhance their 'authentic' voice, while at the same time learning more about ways of structuring their prose works, improving their style and methods of characterisation, and comparing the qualities and expectations of fiction and non-fiction.

Adam Baron will teach the second week. Workshops will continue to focus on your own writing and will look at areas such as plot development, characterisation and tone. You will be asked to read some short texts and will be set exercises to complete when not in class. At the end of this week you will have a greater insight into narrative structure and will hopefully be able to apply the lessons learned to your own work in the future. We will include an informal reading towards the end of the course, which friends and family are welcome to attend.

Rachel Cusk is the author of six novels and various works of non-fiction. She is winner of the Whitbread First Novel award. In 2003 she was nominated by Granta magazine as one of 20 'Best of Young British Novelists'. Her latest novels are Bradshaw Variations and Arlington Park. Her latest non-fiction is Aftermath. She is a Reader in Creative Writing at Kingston University.

Adam Baron writes both crime and literary fiction. His novels have been translated into Greek, French and German and dramatised on the BBC. He is a Principal Lecturer and MA Course Director in Creative Writing at Kingston University.

2. Intensive Poetry Writing Course, two-week course: 17–29 JUNE

"The artist is always beginning, any work of art which is not a beginning, an invention or a discovery is of little worth." Ezra Pound

This two-week course is designed for students primarily interested in writing poetry. Whether you are a new or more experienced writer, if you are interested in exploring poetry and language, this course is for you. Workshops will aim to build the confidence of students and improve their critical abilities through constructive engagement with the work of their peers. Workshop teachers will provide precise, editorial comments as well as advice about the wider direction and ideas of students' the work. They will also recommend wider reading in poetry and critical or contextual material.

Course content will emphasise elements such the dramatic monologue, syllabic verse, the prose poem, ars poetica, translation, docu-poetry, and contemporary poetics and poetry. A reading packet with assignments will be provided.

Dr. Paul Perry will teach the first week of the course. Workshops will discuss, among other things, elements of surprise and experiment in poetry. They will focus on the creation of new work and the revision of work-in-progress through the use of writing exercises and responses to readings.

Jane Yeh will teach the second week of the course. Workshops will explore diverse and exciting approaches to writing free-verse poetry in addition to other forms. We will read and discuss a variety of contemporary poems in English in order to understand how they work structurally, linguistically, and figuratively, and how they generate meaning(s) and ambiguity.

We will experiment with open-ended writing exercises designed to stimulate our creativity and originality, and offer each other feedback on our works-in-progress in a mutually supportive, friendly environment.

*Paul Perry is the author of acclaimed books including *The Drowning of the Saints*, *Goldsmith's Ghost*, *108 Moons*, *The Orchid Keeper* and most recently *The Last Falcon and Small Ordinance*. A winner of *The Hennessy Award for Irish Literature*, he is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing for Kingston University, London and editor of *Beyond the Workshop (KUP)*. With Karen Gillece, he writes 'Karen Perry' thrillers, forthcoming with Penguin UK. Holt US.*

*Jane Yeh was educated at Harvard University and holds master's degrees in Creative Writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and Manchester Metropolitan University. Her first collection of poems, *Marabou* was shortlisted for the Whitbread, Forward, and Aldeburgh Festival poetry prizes. Her latest collection, *The Ninjas* has been described as "funny, clever, and downright charming" by *The Guardian* and "hugely entertaining" by the *Sunday Telegraph*. Her poems have appeared in many journals, as well as in anthologies including *The Best British Poetry 2012* and *The Forward Book of Poetry 2013* and 2006. She is a Senior Researcher in Creative Writing at Kingston University.*

3. Mixed Genre Writing Course, four-week course: 17 JUNE–3 JULY

Our four-week course designed for writers of all levels working potentially across a range of genres. It will provide students with the chance to discuss and develop their work in the context of students 'workshopping' together in genres such as poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama/film under the collective direction of distinguished writers and editors who are accomplished in conducting workshops comprised of writers working in different genres. The course is therefore appropriate for everyone, from emerging writers to more experienced, published ones.

Workshops will seek to build student confidence. All students will be encouraged to participate actively in workshop discussions, which will improve students' critical abilities through the constructive engagement with the work of their peers. In addition, workshop teachers will provide precise, editorial comments as well as professional advice about the wider direction and ideas of the work of students. They will also recommend further reading in creative genres and critical or contextual material.

Course structure

17–29 JUNE

Dr. James Miller will teach the first week of this course and **Siobhan Campbell** the second week. Among other interests, workshops will examine literary fiction, experimental prose or poetry and popular genres within a philosophical, theoretical or political context. The premise will be that all writing relates, first and foremost other literary texts and genres and that all writing is ultimately about language itself although the chief aim of the workshops will be to help students realise their ideas in whatever their chosen form.

1–13 JULY

Dr. Fiona Sampson and **Dr. Todd Swift** will teach the last two weeks of this course respectively. Workshops will give students a chance to continue to work intensively on their work in a dedicated, atelier atmosphere. All the work will be designed to take your own writing as its starting point and to be carried out at your own level and in your own way. Workshops will emphasise ways in which all students will be able to find, develop and enhance their personal style and vision. Students will learn how to use to better effect both craft and editing skills.

Sessions will provide discussion, exercises, writing time, reading time, small and large group work. Students will be invited to work with a writing 'buddy' from within the group. We will look at a range of elements and forms including structure, dramatic setting, rhythm, music, concision, expansion, tone, point of view, argumentation, editing, reading and performance. Writers in the group will be encouraged to attempt to write in other genres, for example prose writers in poetry and vice versa as the workshops explore ways in which their writing relates to the world of popular culture in the age of Facebook and austerity.

Each section of the course will include an informal reading session. Family and friends will be welcome to sit in on this session.

*Dr James Miller is a novelist and academic. He is the author of the highly acclaimed *Lost Boys* and most recently *Sunshine State*. His academic interests include 20th century African-American literature, Civil Rights history, the Beat Generation and the 1960s counter-culture, postmodern American fiction and post-colonial theory. He has also published numerous short stories and is currently working on a new novel. He is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Kingston University.*

*Siobhan Campbell is a poet and critic. She worked in book publishing for many years as publishing manager and director of Wolfhound Press before becoming a Principal Lecturer in Creative Writing at Kingston University. Her work is represented in many contemporary anthologies, including *Making for Planet Alice* (Bloodaxe) and *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Literature* (Norton). She has been writer-in-residence for the Airfield Trust, Dublin, where she founded the Airfield Readers and Writers Group. She is also on the Board of Kingston University Press. Her recent collections of poetry include *The Permanent Wave* and *The Cold that Burns*, both from Blackstaff Press, Belfast.*

Dr. Fiona Sampson has published more than twenty books of poetry, criticism and philosophy of language, and received the Newdigate Prize, a Cholmondeley Award and Writer's Awards from the Arts Councils of England and of Wales. Published in more than thirty languages, she has eleven books in translation, and has received the Zlaten Prsten (FYROM) and the Charles Angoff Award (US). She is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Kingston University.

Dr Todd Swift is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Kingston University. He has worked for a decade in the UK with a generation of young British poets, tutoring or teaching many of the leading ones in workshops. Interested in "fusion poetry", he is an experienced poetry editor and anthologist and author of 8 collections of his own work, a CD, and many works for stage with dancers and musicians. He has been shortlisted for various prizes, including the

Irving Latyon Prize; and won the Young Quebecer of the Year Award for his contribution to the Arts and elected for The Best Canadian Poetry anthologies.

4. Combined Fiction and Poetry Course, two-week course: 1–13 JULY

This two-week course is designed for writers working in either prose fiction or poetry or both and will give both emerging and experienced writers a chance to explore the relationships between the two genres and the benefits of studying one in the context of the other. Over two weeks, workshop teachers will develop and enhance some of the key skills necessary to craft a prose fiction work of any length and/or poetry.

Jonathan Barnes will teach the first week of the course. **Dr. Fiona Sampson** will teach the second week of the course.

Students who have on-going projects should submit, ahead of time, a sample of their work either a series of selected poems or four thousand words of their prose, as well as the first and last pages of their current work-in-progress – or both.

Each week of the course will culminate in an informal reading which family and friends will be welcome to attend. Students should finish the course feeling that they have a better understanding of the techniques necessary to write in their chosen genre or genres, in prose fiction, for example, with an appreciation of the skills required in building an individual scene, the art of description, the theory of plot construction, ways to combat writer's block and methods by which narrative and character can be generated. Those students concentrating mainly on poetry will have gained a better insight into elements such as form, rhythm, syntax, rhetoric, music, and dramatic setting.

*Jonathan Barnes is the author of two novels, *The Somnambulist* and *The Domino Men*, published in the UK by Orion and in the USA by HarperCollins. Together, they have been translated into eight languages. His critical journalism appears regularly in the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Literary Review*. He is Writer-in-Residence at Kingston University.*

Dr. Fiona Sampson has published more than twenty books of poetry, criticism and philosophy of language, and received the Newdigate Prize, a Cholmondeley Award and Writer's Awards from the Arts Councils of England and of Wales. Published in more than thirty languages, she has eleven books in translation, and has received the Zlaten Prsten (FYROM) and the Charles Angoff Award (US). She is a Distinguished Writer in Residence at Kingston University.

English language and entry requirements

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a suitable level of written and spoken English: (equivalent to a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall with 7.0 in the writing module). They will also be required to submit a short sample of work in English: a selection of poems and/or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words.

Accommodation

Accommodation is the responsibility of individual applicants. For assistance with accommodation, please email Maria Papaioannou at the British Council in Athens at Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr or call +30 210 369 2336.

Location

Workshop sessions will take place at the British Council in Athens: 17 Kolonaki Square, 106 73 Athens (nearest tube station Syntagma or Evaggelismos).

Tuition fees

EU students

Two-week courses: €550

Early bird for two-week courses: €500 (for applications by 22 April)

Four-week course: €950

Early bird for the four-week course: €850 (for applications by 22 April)

Non-EU students

Two-week courses: €825

Early bird for two-week courses: €750 (for applications by 22 April)

Four-week Course: €1,425

Early bird for the four-week course: €1,275 (for applications by 22 April)

Deadline for applications

10 June 2013

Early Bird application by 22 April 2013

We will not be accepting applications after the 10 June for any course. Places are limited to 12 participants per course.

How do I apply?

To apply, please complete the application form and return it to Maria Papaioannou at Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr (telephone: +30 210 369 2336).

The form must be accompanied by a short sample of your work: a selection of poems and/or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words in English.

In the case of non-native speakers of English, official evidence of English language competency is required (equivalent to a minimum IELTS score of 6.5 overall with 7.0 in the writing module).

How do I pay?

Once we've confirmed your participation on the course, we'll ask you to pay the course fees. You can make the payment either in cash or by credit card if you are resident in Greece or by bank transfer if you cannot make the payment at our office in Athens.

- If you are resident in Greece, you can make the payment in cash or by credit card (VISA, DINERS & MASTERCARD) at our Athens office (17 Kolonaki Square, 106 73 Athens), Monday to Friday (08.30–15.00) and Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday (15.00-19.00).
- 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 Citibank account.

Account number: 0/444215/003
IBAN: GR 5108400010000000444215003

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

Scan the bank deposit slip and send it to Maria Papaioannou by email at Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr or send by fax to +30 210 361 4658.

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 6 students and refund course's fees.
- No refunds will be made after the course has started.
- Places on the courses cannot be guaranteed until payments are settled.
- Normally the number of participants per course will not exceed 12.

Contact us

To register and for further information, please contact us

Customer Services
British Council
17 Kolonaki Square
106 73 Athens
Telephone + 30 210 369 2333 & 801 500 3692*
Fax +30 210 361 4658
E-mail customerservices@britishcouncil.gr

** Calls from anywhere in Greece are charged at local rate.*

For further details of the creative writing courses, the application procedure and accommodation, please email Maria Papaioannou at Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr or call +30 210 369 2336.

For any additional information, please email Irini Vouzelakou at Irini.Vouzelakou@britishcouncil.gr or Dr. David Rogers at d.rogers@kingston.ac.uk.