



international
Creative Writing
summer school

05 - 30 June 2017

PASSIONATE ABOUT WRITING

Work with leading writers in an open, inspiring yet focused environment.
Develop and enhance your writing skills and maximise the impact of your work.

British Council/ Kingston Writing School International School of Creative Writing 2017 Athens – Thessaloniki



Literature is a thriving and diverse part of the United Kingdom cultural sector and there is a long-standing 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 British Council Greece joined forces with Kingston Writing School 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, Creative Non-Fiction, Writing for the Web) with an exciting Publishing and Editing course. 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 from 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.

Foreword

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 four 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.

David Rogers Director, 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 joy and anticipation to what will be our fifth annual International Creative Writing Summer School. This year the Summer School has once again evolved as we explore ever more exciting and pertinent ways of engaging with writers from across the world in the beautiful cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

In Athens, we offer once again three of our most popular courses - Flash Fiction, Fiction, and Poetry - the first two taught by returning teachers Heidi Dunbar James and Martin Ouvry, both back by popular demand, and the third by Forward Prize-winning poet Mona Arshi. We again have Judith Watts, Managing Director of Kingston University Press, back to teach Publishing and Editing, the course having proved a huge hit in both Athens and Thessaloniki last year. To these core courses we have now added Creative Non-Fiction, taught by acclaimed writer and innovator Alexander Masters, which will cover a range of genres including biography, memoir, and journalism, among others, and Writing for the Web taught by writer and award-winning blogger Sinead Keegan. In a new twist, Judith Watts will also teach a shorter course in Publishing and Editing in Thessaloniki to complement our course in Fiction taught by best-selling novelist Julia Stuart after her successful stints in Athens.

As always, the writers leading all of the courses are experienced teachers who will bring a wealth of knowledge and insight into the classroom. They will ensure that the atmosphere in the courses will be - as always - stimulating, respectful and fun. With their guidance and support you will be able to develop not only your writing but also valuable transferrable skills that will help you in many areas of your life and work.

So what are you waiting for? Sign up now for one or more of the courses and join us in Athens or Thessaloniki – or maybe both! Make this June special, as it will be for all of us at KWS.



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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 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, 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 and a shorter three-day 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



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Athens one-week writing courses

Flash Fiction with Heidi James [5–9 June](#)

Poetry with Mona Arshi [5–9 June](#)

Fiction with Martin Ouvry [12–16 June](#)

Creative non-fiction with Alexander Masters [12–16 June](#)

Writing for the Web with Sinead Keegan [19–23 June](#)

Publishing/Editing with Judith Watts [26–30 June](#)

Literary Saturday Mornings

An open to the public series of Open Readings and Discussions on Saturdays [10/6](#), [17/6](#) and [24/6](#) at **Lexikopoleio** (13 Stasinou Street, 116 35 Athens)

Thessaloniki one-week writing course

Fiction with Julia Stuart [26–30 June](#)

Thessaloniki three-day workshop

Publishing/Editing with Judith Watts [21–23 June](#)

Early bird registration deadline:

10 April 2017

Deadline for registration:

15 May 2017

Athens

Flash Fiction with Heidi James

5 - 9 June 2017

In the flash fiction workshops we will explore micro-literature from a variety of authors, discussing their approach and the extraordinary range and versatility available in such a short form. We will learn the elements of craft specific to this literary form; experimenting with language, plot and structure. Our workshops will centre on exercises, constructive feedback, experimentation and discussion in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. We will also explore how understanding the skills that are necessary for the short-short form provides the foundation for writing longer works.

Heidi James is the author of three novels. *So the Doves* will be published by Bluemoose Books in August 2017. *Wounding* was published by Bluemoose Books in April, 2014. She 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*.

Poetry with Mona Arshi

5 - 9 June 2017

In this course we will talk you through the process of capturing a poem and bringing it to life via shape, lineation, music and meaning. We will also encourage participants to explore and experiment with form via close reading of poems and writing exercises in the class. As well as generating new work, the course will include one to one tutorials and workshops to help develop a critical approach and edit your works in progress.

Mona Arshi worked as a human rights lawyer for a decade before she received a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. She went on to win the inaugural Magma Poetry competition in 2011 as well as the Troubadour International Prize and the Manchester Creative writing prize in 2014. Her debut collection *Small Hands* won the Forward Prize for best first collection in 2015. Mona is the 2016-2017 Arvon/Jerwood poetry mentor.

Athens

Fiction with Martin Ouvry

12 - 16 June 2017

Designed for writers seeking to enhance their prose fiction skills, this course will concentrate mainly on the students' own writing. The week will feature workshop discussions and readings that will focus on key narrative elements and techniques. There will also be a series of in-class writing exercises to help us explore and develop various elements of the craft: generating ideas, character, sense of time and place, narrative development, plotting, voice, and more. Short story writers and novel writers are equally welcome.

Martin Ouvry worked as a musician in Europe and America before studying English and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. His awards include a final year prize for outstanding achievement (UEA, BA), the Alumni Association Prize for Fiction (UEA, MA), an Arts Council Writers' Award, a Hawthornden Fellowship and a Wingate Scholarship. His fiction has been published in various anthologies and magazines, among them *New Writing*, *A Little Nest of Pedagogues* (in dual English and Chinese texts), *The London Magazine* and *Esquire*. His story 'Forget-Me-Not' was longlisted for BBC Radio 4's *Opening Lines*. His play *Shakespeare: the Puppet Show* ran throughout the V&A's Shakespeare Festival in April 2014. He has written three novels and is at work on a fourth. Martin has taught creative writing for the Arts Council England, the British Council, City University, the Kingston Writing School, and UEA. He has reviewed books for the *Sunday Times*, the *FT* and the *Observer*. Lee Brackstone has written of his fiction: 'I would struggle to find a writer of comparable talent in Martin's generation.' The late Deborah Rogers wrote: 'I think his is a voice of true originality and distinction, and one that will in time emerge as a major player in a new generation of British novelists.'

Creative Non-fiction with Alexander Masters

12 - 16 June 2017

For non-fiction or fiction writers, this course will look at different ways to write interesting, well-structured stories that may be based on real characters and events. The emphasis will be on clear writing and strong narrative drive. Students will learn how to write stories that capture and maintain the reader's curiosity and are organised in a way that best suits the theme or plot. Included in the course will be workshops and exercises that will help students to develop intriguing characters, write lively dialogue and descriptive passages. The course will also explain how to keep yourself out of trouble if you're discussing people – however thickly disguised – who are still alive. The course will suit writers whose primary interest is to engage readers with clear, evocative prose and a distinctive voice.

Alexander Masters is the author of *A Life Discarded: 148 diaries found in a skip*; *Simon, the genius in my basement* and *Stuart, a life backwards*, which won the Hawthornden Prize and the Guardian First Book Award.

Athens

Writing For The Web with Sinead Keegan

19 - 23 June 2017

The course is designed for aspiring and accomplished writers looking to become more familiar with and confident using the internet for their writing. It offers the opportunity to practice writing for different digital mediums, and it combines practical work with personal feedback in a supportive environment.

The course will focus on the opportunities offered by the internet for writers of all types. We will look at examples of successful internet writing and consider the pros and cons of different platforms in the context of what students want to achieve with their own internet presence. Students will be encouraged to work across platforms and to give and receive feedback on their writing. We will also discuss 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 all 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. Her poetry and short stories have been published in print and online.

Publishing / Editing with Judith Watts

26 - 30 June 2017

Getting Published: what you really need to know

On the micro level the workshop will teach tools and processes for editing your work, sending out submissions, writing a synopsis, approaching agents, and getting paid. On a macro level, we will explore the current publishing landscape across genres to help you assess how to best share your writing. Discussions will focus on issues such as types of publishers, from traditional to start-up; self-publishing or hybrid authors; the benefits of digital editions; the use of social media platforms; and the global market place.

Judith Watts is Course Leader of the accredited Publishing Masters at Kingston University and Managing Editor of Kingston University Press. She has a wide range of industry experience, is an author in the Hodder Teach Yourself Writing series and holds an MFA in Creative Writing. She regularly helps new writers send their work out into a world where content is abundant and attention is scarce – and where writers, publishers and readers need to communicate effectively.

Fiction with Julia Stuart

26 - 30 June 2017

The course will start with a short discussion on a particular element of prose writing such as suspense, narrative drive or backstory. We will look at examples of how successful novelists use these techniques to their best effect. The rest of the class will be spent critiquing each other's work in a supportive and constructive manner. Students will be encouraged to focus on the many technical ways in which they can improve their writing. This is an informative, practical and fun course for writers who are serious about taking their work to another level.

Julia Stuart is an award-winning journalist and bestselling novelist. Her first novel *The Matchmaker of Périgord* was longlisted for *Spread the Word: Books to Talk About* 2008 and has been adapted for film. Her second *The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise* was published in 2010 and became a *New York Times* bestseller, a national bestseller, and an NPR Best Book of the Year. It was picked for the Obamas' holiday reading. *The Pigeon Pie Mystery*, published in 2012, was selected as a 'Book of the Week', as well as an 'Unputdownable Mystery', by Oprah.com. Her latest novel *The Last Pearl Fisher of Scotland* was published by Vintage in August 2016. A. L. Kennedy said "The Last Pearl Fisher of Scotland is a gently comic, gently tragic novel, full of lyricism, humanity and the pearl that is love. Read it at once."

Publishing / Editing with Judith Watts

21 - 23 June 2017

Three-day workshop

This short course will introduce you to current opportunities in publishing and help you assess how to share and get paid for your writing in a global market place. The workshop format will teach the processes for improving and editing your work, sending out submissions, getting an agent and approaching publishers. Ideas about self-publishing and building your author brand will also be explored.

- Designed for anyone who is interested in editing and publishing
- Answers the questions you really want to know about publishing and how to get your work out into the world.

Judith Watts is Course Leader of the accredited Publishing Masters at Kingston University and Managing Editor of Kingston University Press. She has a wide range of industry experience, is an author in the Hodder Teach Yourself Writing series and holds an MFA in Creative Writing. She regularly helps new writers send their work out in to a world where content is abundant and attention is scarce – and where writers, publishers and readers need to communicate effectively.

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 or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words, depending on the course they have chosen.

Course fees

One-week courses: €340

- 15% discount for applicants, based in Greece €285
- 10% early bird discount for all applications received by 10 April, €300
- Combined discount: €255

Three-day workshop: 200€

- 15% discount for applicants, based in Greece €170
- 10% early bird discount for all applications received by 10 April, €180
- Combined discount: €150

Certificates of achievement will be awarded upon completion.

Course length

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

Three-day workshop:
7.5 workshop hours +
individual/small group tutorials

Locations

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

British Council, 43 Tsimiski Street,
546 23, Thessaloniki

Lexikopoleio, 13 Stasinou Street,
116 35 Athens

Deadline for applications

- Early bird: 10 April 2017
- 15 May 2017

Holders of the European Youth Card will be given a maximum 25% discount (throughout the registration period) on all our creative writing courses until 15 May 2017.

You can watch the International Creative Writing Video here: <https://vimeo.com/112412858>



Entry requirements and how to apply

English language & entry requirements

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a high 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 sample of their work in English: either a selection of poems or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words, depending on the course they have chosen.

Accommodation

Accommodation is the responsibility of individual applicants.

Advice could be provided if necessary.

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 or a prose piece of approximately 2,000 words, depending on the course you have chosen.

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:

ATHENS COURSES

Citibank account number:

0/444215/003

IBAN: GR51 0840 0010 0000 0044
4215 003

THESSALONIKI COURSES

Alpha Bank account number: 7140

0200 2002 275

IBAN: GR85 0140 7140 7140 0200
2002 275

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 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 15.



Teaching staff



Martin Ouvry

Heidi James is the author of three novels. *So the Doves* will be published by Bluemoose Books in August 2017. *Wounding* was published by Bluemoose Books in April, 2014. She 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*.

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Mona Arshi



Heidi James

Teaching staff



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“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 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

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/>