

## How do I apply?

We will need:

### 1. A completed application form

This [Application Form](#) will ask for your personal details, and information about your career as a writer so far. We will also ask about your ambitions as a professional writer and why you believe this Professional Development Programme would help you at your current stage of your writing career.

### 2. An example of your creative writing

The application form will ask you to upload an example of your best creative writing. We suggest between 2,000 – 4,000 words of prose **or** between 4-8 poems. Please don't send anything too long.

If your work-in-progress is a graphic novel, we suggest sending a summary of the story and a sample of completed storyboard pages (with text and illustration).

You may also send the information requested in the application form in a video submission, or/including a performance of your original literary work if you prefer. Please email [post@literaturewales.org](mailto:post@literaturewales.org) for more information.

## Assessment

Your application will be assessed by a diverse panel of experts who will assess:

- The quality and creative potential of the writing you submitted, as well as the originality and freshness of ideas and voice in the work and your application
- The suitability of this programme for you as a writer at this stage of your career

Our remit as a bilingual, national organisation commits us to make sure that a range of writers can access our opportunities. Because of this, language and geographical balance might also be taken into consideration by the panel.

## Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any question about this Professional Writer Development Programme, please read through our Frequently Asked Questions. If you can't see the answer to your question, please contact us for further information:

### Eligibility

#### **Who is eligible to apply for this opportunity?**

Individuals of colour currently living in Wales over the age of 18 who want to develop their skills in any literary form.

#### **Do I need previous experience to apply?**

No. We welcome applications from those new to the world of writing, or those who may have started on their journey and need support to reach the next level. The Assessment Panel will be looking at potential and originality.

#### **Am I too experienced to apply?**

This opportunity is mainly for new, early career, and mid-career writers.

However, as a more experienced writer you might find that there are barriers for you to reach your full potential, or you might want to experiment with a different literary form or language.

Everyone will have a different definition of what early or mid-career is, and where they believe themselves to be on their journey as a writer. Therefore, we will welcome applications from writers at all stages of their careers.

#### **Is this opportunity for young writers only?**

This opportunity is for writers of all ages (over the age of 18).

#### **In what language will this programme be delivered?**

All events will be delivered through the medium of English or Welsh, depending on the language preference of the cohort.

However, if you write creatively in any other language, we will try and assist by pairing you up with a suitable Mentor who is also fluent in that language. Please note that we can only assess creative writing examples submitted for the application process in Welsh or English. If you submit original creative work in another language, you will also need to submit a translation of the work into Welsh or English.

Writers who are not currently fluent in Welsh, but are looking for an opportunity to improve their written and creative skills in Welsh, will also be supported in this programme. When selecting the successful writers, outstanding creative potential will be more important than being accurate with your language.

**I'm a past recipient of Literature Wales Bursary or Mentoring schemes, can I apply?**

Yes, you can. This is a brand-new Programme, and we want it to be open to as many eligible writers as possible.

**Why are you prioritising applications from writers of colour?**

Many of Literature Wales' activities and opportunities are open to all. However, we feel that there is a great need to address inequality and under-representation within Wales' literary culture. Our aim is to identify and address existing barriers to inclusion for our clients, audiences, and participants. As a result of this, we will be able to design bespoke project delivery models that every individual can access. Equality is about opening doors which were previously closed.

Striving for better equality, diversity and inclusion is essential for the literature sector to thrive and be meaningful to all. This belief is reflected in our mission and sits at the core of our activity programme.

For more information, please see Literature Wales' Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Plan.

**Which literary genres are eligible?**

We welcome writers who work in a variety of literary genres including poetry, prose (including novels, short stories), creative non-fiction, children and young adults' literature, graphic novels, spoken word, rap, screenplays and scriptwriting.

We also welcome those who are interested in running literary participation work with communities and groups.

You are also welcome to submit cross-genre work which doesn't fit neatly into one category.

## The Assessment Process

**Who are the Assessment Panel?**

The Assessment Panel is made up of a range of individuals who have expertise in literature, creative writing, the publishing industry in Wales and beyond, and/or professional writer development. The panel includes individuals from a variety of linguistic and ethnic backgrounds.

[Click here](#) for more information about the Assessment Panel.

**How will you assess my application?**

The Applications Panel will assess all applications separately and award a mark to each applicant against a set criteria looking at the quality and potential of your submitted creative writing excerpt, as well as the suitability of this programme for your identified needs. The selection panel might also consider linguistic and geographical balance when selecting applicants.

**If I am unsuccessful, will I receive feedback?**

As we are expecting a lot of applications, we may not be able to provide detailed feedback on each one. However, where possible we will provide a short, personalised line of feedback, and advise on other opportunities Literature Wales and partners might have available.

**When will I hear if my application for the Professional Development Programme has been successful?**

All applicants will be informed of the Assessment Panel's decision by 8 January 2021 and the names of the selected writers will be publicly announced in the same month.

## The Programme

**When will the programme take place? Do you have more details and dates for events?**

The Programme will take place roughly over 12 months from January until December 2021.

The programme will be created together with the selected writers so that its content is as useful as possible for each writer's interests and goals.

Some events might coincide with festivals in the literary calendar, e.g. The Hay Festival or London Book Fair. Others will happen during week, evenings, and weekends. We will try to schedule events to ensure that most of the writers can join in. But it won't always be possible – and therefore we will try to record digital events so that you can watch them again. We will be flexible to suit people's schedules.

You can schedule your own one-to-one sessions with your personal Mentor to meet face-to-face (where safe to do so) or virtually.

After the 12-month programme, we will continue to offer support to the cohort by checking in, offering advice, and inviting the writers to further networking and training opportunities. This is a long-term investment into their development.

**How much time will be required of me if I am accepted onto the Programme?**

We estimate that we will organise activities and set tasks that will require between 10-13 whole days of your time during the year, but many of these events will be scheduled to avoid interfering with office hours.

It's up to you how many extra hours you will then be able to allocate towards your own writing projects during the year.

**Will I be required to travel for events?**

This depends on factors including the COVID-19 situation.

We will discuss the cohort's appetite and availability for face-to-face activity, and will potentially organise some training days in a location in Wales with overnight accommodation, and/or a course or a retreat at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre. We anticipate that most of the events can take place virtually, and the whole programme can be adapted to be delivered digitally if necessary, should COVID-19 restrictions continue to apply.

You will also be issued with a ticket budget to spend on festival and event tickets of your choice.

**I have a disability or an illness that might make it difficult to take part, can you help?**

Yes. Please contact us to discuss any concerns and requirements beforehand. An access fund has been created to enable full participation in events for writers with disabilities or illnesses who may have additional access requirements.

**Will I be required to hand over a finished piece of work at the end of the 12-months?**

Not necessarily. This will be a programme to equip you with the tools you will need to develop your craft in the long term, and to develop professionally as a writer. We work with you to set achievable aims and goals at the beginning of the programme, and help you achieve them.

We will want to showcase your achievements somehow – whether in a celebration event, an online platforming event or other.

## General Enquiries

**I am not eligible for this opportunity, but I am interested in developing my career as a writer. How can you help?**

One of Literature Wales' three main pillars of activity is Writer Development, and we have many projects dedicated to help writers develop their writing and careers as writers. Please [visit our website](#) for more information about the opportunities we have available, or for further information please [contact us](#) to discuss your individual needs.

New funding opportunities for writers will continue to be available in the future, for instance through additional rounds of our [Writer Commissions](#).

Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic some of our usual projects may be on hold for the time being.

**Are Literature Wales' Bursaries for Writers and Mentoring Scheme running this year?**

We won't be opening an application process for our Bursary and Mentoring schemes this year.

We were pleased to have contributed 50% of our earmarked lottery funding for 2020-2021 to the Arts Council of Wales Arts Resilience Fund in response to the COVID-19 crisis. We were one of many organisations who contributed to this broader package of support, which includes the Urgent Response Fund for Individuals for those freelance creative individuals – including writers – most in need of financial assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information can be [found here](#).

This year therefore is an opportunity for Literature Wales to define and focus our support and development opportunities for writers. Ensuring the right support at the right time can contribute towards the richness and diversity of our contemporary literary culture. This is why we are launching this new Professional Development Programme for Writers of Colour, which replaces the previous Bursaries and Mentoring scheme for this year.

Our hope is to resume the Bursary and Mentoring scheme in 2021, as well as develop our Professional Writer Development Programme for under-represented writers. However, due to the uncertainty of future funding agreements, we are not yet able to give a definite update on the future of our funding schemes.