

**ARE YOU
PASSIONATE
ABOUT
WRITING?**



international
Creative Writing
summer school



Athens - Thessaloniki



Welcome to the British Council/ Kingston Writing School International School of Creative Writing 2014 Athens – Thessaloniki



The UK undoubtedly has a long-standing tradition in creative writing and a robust network of professionals. There are many well established creative writing courses at UK universities and multiple opportunities to learn about all aspects of writing, from the content of the work to the requirements of the publishing industry. In an attempt to explore British creative writing methodologies within a Greek context and in response to the growing need for networking and exchange opportunities for writers across the world, British Council Greece and Kingston Writing School joined their forces and launched the first International Creative Writing School in Athens in 2013. The Summer School runs on an annual basis every June in Athens and in 2014 a second branch will run in Thessaloniki.

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 from across the world with an opportunity to work with leading writers/teachers from the Kingston Writing School with the aim to enhance the writing skills of students, no matter what the extent of their professional experience or ambition is and maximise the impact of their work. The Summer School creates an international community of writers and strengthens professional relationships between UK writers and their counterparts in Greece and Europe.

The British Council promotes excellence and innovation in the arts and we develop activities for collaboration and the exchange of ideas. The International Creative Writing School in Athens has proved to be really a great example of that. Last year was so rewarding for all those who took the opportunity to get involved and we are delighted that together with Kingston Writing School we now have the chance to build on that success by organising more courses that will be even more exciting. If cultural relations is about the exchange of knowledge and ideas between people then literature must surely be at the heart of that. We think that the International Creative Writing School has a winning formula and all the ingredients are there for an enjoyable and stimulating experience for students and colleagues. Many thanks to Kingston Writing School for the excellent partnership and together we look forward to meeting you in Athens and Thessaloniki.

Tony Buckby, Director, British Council, Greece

The Kingston Writing School is proud to work in association with the British Council in Greece on the International Creative Writing Summer School. The Summer School offers writers associated with KWS a fantastic opportunity to work closely with aspiring and established writer and journalists from Greece, Europe, the United States, and around the world in vibrant, small workshop groups in the wonderfully stimulating and historic city of Athens. Our first year proved a great success for students and colleagues alike. The atmosphere was engaged, engaging and intense but also sociable, respectful and fun, and everyone learned a great deal, about writing, about each other, and other cultures. With the addition of new courses and the British Literature and Art series of lectures I am sure this year's Summer School will be even better. I hope you can join us for one of the courses or, if not, for the lecture series.

Dr David Rogers, Director, Kingston Writing School

Course programme

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

Courses on offer include fiction, poetry, non-fiction, autobiography, playwriting, screenwriting and literary translation. A series of lectures on contemporary British literature will also take place as part of the Summer School.

Established writers associated with the Kingston Writing School 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.

Courses will be held in English and are suitable for writers at all levels. They will take place every day from Monday to Friday in June at the British Council in Athens and Thessaloniki.

Who is it for?

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

The International Creative Writing Summer School will:

- Give writers the opportunity to explore and develop their imaginative and expressive potential, 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

Athens

Fiction / Flash Fiction Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Adam Baron and Aimee Parkison
2–14 June 2014

This 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, 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. Students will write short-short fiction pieces in exercises based on topics, such as form, content, style, voice, characterization, narrative, and tone.

Non- Fiction Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Maurice Walsh and Norma Clarke
2–14 June 2014

This course is designed for writers working in types of non-fiction, including life writing (memoir and autobiography), biography, journalism, diaries and personal essay. It will give writers from any of these sub-genres a chance to examine and record their own personal experiences as well as the life experiences of others, while enjoying the benefits of studying all in the context of the others. Workshop teachers will develop and enhance some of the key skills necessary to craft a prose fiction work of any length, whether a novel, short story or novella and poetry. The course is suited to aspiring writers as well as those who have begun work on a life narrative – non-fiction – project.

Mixed Genre Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Bonnie Greer, Catherine Smith and
Jonathan Barnes
2 - 21 June 2014

Our three-week course is designed for writers of all levels working across genres, including novels, poetry, scriptwriting, short stories, flash fiction and non-fiction. It will provide students with the chance to discuss and develop their work in the context of students working in all of these genres. Workshops will seek to build student confidence. All students will be encouraged to participate actively in workshop discussions, which will improve their 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.

Poetry Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Jane Yeh and Paul Perry
16 - 28 June 2014

This two-week course is designed for students primarily interested in writing poetry. The course is suited to new or more experienced writers interested in exploring poetry and language. Workshop teachers will provide precise, editorial comments as well as advice about the wider direction and ideas of students work. They will also recommend wider reading in poetry and critical or contextual material. Course content will emphasize elements such the dramatic monologue, syllabic verse, the prose poem, ars poetica, translation, docu-poetry, and contemporary poetics and poetry.

Athens

Fiction Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Julia Stuart and Dr. James Miller
16 - 28 June 2014

This 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/short story writers, the course will combine precise comments in peer-led workshop sessions with individual feedback on written drafts. The emphasis will be on discussions and exercises while at the same time learning more about ways of structuring their prose works, improving their style and methods of characterization.

Literary Translation Course

Teaching staff:
David Connolly
16- 28 June 2014

This course involves practice in translating literary texts to a professional level. The texts will be chosen from a wide range of 20th century prose fiction and poetry in order to allow students practice in translating various literary styles. There will be some theoretical input concerning the specific problems and strategies for dealing with the problems that arise in literary translation but the emphasis will be firmly on translation practice. Students will be expected to prepare texts for discussion in the workshops. Native – speaker level competence in both Greek and English is essential.

Lecture Series

British Literature and Art in Greece

with Bonnie Greer, Paul Bailey,
Barbara Taylor, Paul Pery
and Lindsay Smith
every Saturday
from 31st of May to 28th of June

This series of five early afternoon lectures will explore a range of topics related to British literature and art in Greece. Designed to raise as many questions as they answer, the lectures will examine the complex relationships between British writers and artists in various Greek contexts, including ethnicity, fiction, memoir and photography. Writers will read from their work as well as engage with audiences in a relaxed atmosphere of stimulating critical reflection.

Thessaloniki

Fiction Writing Course

Teaching staff:
Paul Bailey
2- 6 June 2014

This course is designed primarily for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to develop and enhance their prose writing skills. Taught by a highly acclaimed novelist, the course will combine precise comments in peer-led workshop sessions with individual feedback on written drafts. Emphasis will be given on the shorter fiction such as the novella.

Teaching Staff



Adam Baron

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 MA Course Director in Creative Writing at Kingston. He is currently completing a new novel as well as a PhD in Creative Writing at Brunel University under the supervision of Fay Weldon.

Aimee Parkison is Associate Professor of Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The acclaimed author of *Woman with Dark Horses*, she has won the first annual Kurt Vonnegut Fiction Prize from North American Review, the first annual Starcherone Press Fiction Prize, a Jack Dyer Prize from Crab Orchard Review, and a Writers at Work fiction fellowship. Her second novel, *The Petals of Your Eyes*, focuses on kidnapped girls working in a secret theatre.

Dr Maurice Walsh has worked as a foreign correspondent and documentary maker for the BBC, reporting from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the USA and Europe. He has been Knight Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan and Alistair Horne Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford and his academic research focuses on a historically informed exploration of media and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. His recent book, *The News from Ireland: Foreign Correspondents and the Irish Revolution* is an analysis of the political dynamics of media representations during a colonial war.

Norma Clarke is Professor of English Literature and Creative Writing at Kingston University and an internationally recognised expert in the field of women's writing. Her main research interests are in 18th century women's writing, children's literature and biography. Her books include *Dr Johnson's Women*, *The Rise and Fall of the Woman of Letters*, and, most recently, *Queen of the Wits: a Life of Laetitia Pilkington*.

Bonnie Greer, OBE, is an American-British playwright, novelist and critic. She is also the Chancellor of Kingston University. Her novels include *Hanging by Her Teeth*, *Entropy*, and *Obama Music*. She has also published *Langston Hughes: the Value of Contradiction* and the following plays: *Munda Negra*, *Dancing on Blackwater* and *Jitterbug*.

Catherine Smith is an award-winning poet and fiction writer. Her first full collection, *The Butcher's Hands* was short-listed for the Aldeburgh/Jerwood Prize and was a PBS Recommendation. It earned her a place, in 2004, as one of Mslexia's 'Top Ten UK Women Poets' and as one of the 'Next Generation' poets. Her third book, *Lip*, was short-listed for the Forward Prize, 2008. She is currently working on her next collection, *Otherwhere*.

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.

Jane Yeh was educated at Harvard University and has a MFA in Creative Writing from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and an MA from 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. She is a Senior Researcher in Creative Writing at Kingston University.

Teaching Staff



James Miller

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 at Kingston University, London. With Karen Gillece, he writes 'Karen Perry' thrillers, forthcoming with Penguin UK. Holt US.

Julia Stuart is a bestselling novelist and an award-winning journalist. Her first novel, *The Matchmaker of Périgord*, was longlisted for Spread the Word: Books to Talk About 2008, a World Book Day award. In 2010 she published *The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise*, which became a New York Times bestseller, a national bestseller, and an NRP Best Book of the Year. Her third novel, *The Pigeon Pie Mystery*, published in 2012, was selected as an Oprah.com Book of the Week, as well as one of its "Unputdownable". She is writer-in-residence at Kingston University.

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 1960's 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.

David Connolly was for several years Head of Translation at the British Council, Athens and has also taught translation at both undergraduate and post-graduate levels at several Greek universities. He is currently Professor of Translation Studies in the School of English at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. As a professional freelance translator for over twenty-five years, he has been

commissioned by individual authors and publishing companies to translate numerous literary and non-literary works. He has published some thirty-five books of translations of work by major 20th-century Greek poets, novelists and short-story writers.

Paul Bailey is one of the most esteemed British novelists and has taught creative writing at major universities in the UK and US. He is the author of eleven novels, two of which, *Peter Smart's Confessions* (1977) and *Gabriel's Lament* (1986), were nominated for the Booker Prize for Fiction, and four books of non-fiction. His latest novel, *The Prince's Boy*, will be published this spring by Bloomsbury. He currently teaches creative writing at Kingston University.

Lindsay Smith is professor of English at the University of Sussex and co-director of the Sussex Centre for Visual fields. A specialist in 19th century non-fictional prose, painting, and photography as well as visual perception, photography theory and early 20th century British literature and art, she is the author of many influential articles. Her next book on the photographs of Lewis Carroll will be published by Reaktion Press. Her current research focuses on British photographs of Athens and the Acropolis.

Barbara Taylor is Professor of Humanities at Queen Mary, University of London. A non-fiction writer and historian specialising in Enlightenment history, Gender studies, and the history of subjectivity, she is the author of the biography of Mary Wollstonecraft, among other publications, including *On Kindness*, co-written with Adam Phillips. Her recent memoir, *The Last Asylum: A Memoir of Madness in Our Times*, was published in February, 2014 to wide acclaim by Hamish Hamilton and was recently the book of the week on Radio 4 in the UK.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the one month Mixed Genre Course and it exceeded my expectations!
The best part was having four different tutors over the month and the variety of insights this provided"
(participant, International Creative Writing School 2013)

"Together, under the university's staff guidance, we discovered techniques, new points of views, useful methods, different and interesting ways to share our passion and stories... we discovered whole worlds"
(participant, International Creative Writing School 2013)





“It was fascinating to hear from Greek writers about the economic and social turmoil, and to see how it was represented in their writing. Students hailed from several countries including Greece, the UK, the USA and Mexico. The wealth of world and life experience added to the rich discussions of writing and literature”

(participant, International Creative Writing School 2013)

Entry requirements and how to apply

Eligibility

Courses will be held in English.

Applicants whose first language is not English 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.

Each course will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

Fees

Home students with permanent residence in Greece

Two-week courses: €450
Three-week course: €635
One-week course: €225

EU/International students

Two-week courses: €600
Three-week course: €850
One-week course: €300

There will be significant discounts for those who apply before the 22nd of April

Lecture Series:
British Literature and Art in Greece

- Lecture package (5 lectures) €60 (including refreshments and snacks)
 - Each lecture €15 (including refreshments and snacks)
- Participation to the lecture series is free of charge to students registered on any of the courses.

All participants who complete a course will receive a certificate of achievement.

Applications

Deadline for applications: 19 May 2014
Early Bird: 22 April 2014

All participants will be required to complete an application form and send it 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.

The application form, contact details and further information can be found on www.britishcouncil.gr/en/events/international-creative-writing-summer-school-2014

About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organization 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/>

About 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/>