

**ARE YOU  
PASSIONATE  
ABOUT  
WRITING?**



international  
**Creative Writing**  
summer school

**1 - 27 June 2015**

Athens - Thessaloniki

# Welcome to the British Council/ Kingston Writing School International School of Creative Writing 2015 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 ran in Thessaloniki. In 2015, the Summer School gets bigger and better with new courses and a series of lectures which will run both in Athens and 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 Summer School in Athens has proved to be really a great example of that. Last year the courses and lectures were once again a lively and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Enthusiasm has never been greater! We are really delighted that together with Kingston Writing School and Kingston University we are now building on success with another programme which is again so 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 Summer School has a winning formula and all the ingredients are there for an enjoyable and stimulating experience for students and colleagues. Many thanks to KWS and Kingston University 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 continue to work in association with the British Council in Greece on the International Creative Writing Summer School. Our Summer School offers aspiring and established writers and journalists from Greece, Europe, the United States and around the world a fantastic opportunity to work closely with KWS writers within vibrant, small workshop groups in the wonderfully stimulating and historic cities of Athens and Thessaloniki. Our first two years have proved a great success for students and colleagues alike. The atmosphere has been engaged, engaging and intense but also sociable, respectful and fun, and everyone has learned a lot - about writing, about each other and about other cultures. With even more courses this year and some new teachers, this year's Summer School promises to be the best ever. So join us for one or more of our courses or, if you can't, attend our accompanying lecture series on Saturdays.

**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, nonfiction, autobiography, playwriting, and screenwriting. A series of lectures on contemporary writing 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, creative professionals who want to enhance their writing skills
- anyone with a passion for good writing

The International Creative Writing Sumer 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

## Fiction Writing Course

---

KJ Orr and Dr Howard Cunnell  
1st June - 13th June 2015

---

- designed for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to develop and enhance their prose writing skills
- combines precise comments in peer- led workshops with individual feedback on written drafts to help students develop their own voice more confidently
- looks at a range of elements crucial to writing good fiction

The workshops in the first week will focus on constructive in-depth group discussion of work submitted by participants in advance of the class. The second week will focus primarily on peer-led workshops, in which students will continue to present work-in-progress and receive individual feedback. At the conclusion of the course students will have a greater insight into the techniques of developing character, improving dialogue and descriptive writing, handling point of view and building a narrative.

## Non- Fiction Writing Course

---

Linda Cracknell and Maurice Walsh  
1st June - 13th June 2015

---

- designed for writers working in types of non-fiction, including life writing (memoir and autobiography), biography, journalism, diaries and personal essay
- explores the process of research and provides students with the opportunity to engage with practical exercises that lead to new writing
- examines and records the students' own personal experiences as well as the life experiences of others and explores the benefits of studying all in the context of the other.

In the first week the course will cover the writing and structuring of creative non-fiction through attentive study of selected articles and book extracts and daily composition exercises. The second week of the course will provide students with the opportunity to engage with practical exercises that lead to new pieces of work and will discuss how to cope with all the research material and how to draft and re-draft their work..

## Advanced Fiction Writing Course

---

Francesca Kay and Jonathan Gibbs  
15th June -27th June 2015

---

- designed for experienced and accomplished writers who want to develop and enhance their fiction writing skills
- combines professional, constructive comments in peer-led workshop sessions with individual feedback on written drafts to help students develop their own voice more confidently
- includes analysis and discussion of different styles, writing exercises in-class and readings of the writers' current work.

The first week of the course will include analysis and discussion of different styles and the ways in which accomplished writers use language uniquely to achieve their aims. The workshops in the second week will principally focus on group discussion of work-in-progress presented by participating writers. The point of this week will be to allow for the most thorough possible development on the page of the writers' current work and the most useful preparation for their continued progress after it.

## Fiction Writing Course

Ed Docx  
1st June- 6th June 2015

- designed for aspiring writers alike who want to develop and enhance their prose writing skills
- combines exercises related to a range of techniques crucial to writing good fiction with constructive feedback to all students in peer-led workshop sessions
- emphasises discussions and exercises that will help students to discover, explore and enhance their personal style and vision

This one-week course is taught by an internationally acclaimed fiction writer; workshops will be conducted in a stimulating environment of mutual support and respect. The course suits anyone with a passion for good writing, and readings will be provided.

## Suspense Writing Course

Dr. Andrew (A.J.) Hartley  
8th June - 13th June 2015

- studies the design, orchestration and execution of all long form genre fiction that contain elements of suspense, particularly mystery, thriller, fantasy and science fiction for all ages
- aimed at writers who aspire to generate a commercially marketable novel
- focusses on both on large scale structure (including the development of high concept premises and how to outline a story in three acts) and on the sentence-level writing of scenes from work in progress

Students will come to class on the first day with a one-page pitch for a novel. Over the course, they will refine their initial ideas and look at how the resultant books might be organised. Simultaneously, they will work on mastering an appropriate narrative voice for their book. Outside class, students will generate a few pages of text from their novel for workshopping. Students will leave the course with a clear sense of the viability of their original ideas.

## Scriptwriting course

Winsome Pinnock  
15th June- 20th June 2015

- aims to help students hone the skills of writing for performance through exercises
- explores a number of contemporary texts by authors such as Laura Wade, Caryl Churchill, Leo Butler and Nick Payne

Students will examine the significance of time and space in dramatic writing, and you will be given exercises that will help you to create complex characters and to write dialogue that is authentic and dynamic. By the end of the week you should have begun to write a play that is suitable for production on the contemporary stage or radio.

## Poetry Writing Course

Ahren Warner  
22nd June- 27th June 2015

- designed for aspiring writers alike who want to develop and enhance their poetry writing skills
- explores the lyric subject, poetic ethics, the line, cadence and sensation of contemporary poetry as the basis of critical reading, discussion and workshopping

From reading great poems, through the discussion of influential ideas to the workshopping and writing of student's own poems, the course will aim to develop understanding of the stakes, potential and problems of poetic language so that students will be able to write more accomplished and affective poems.

## Fiction Writing Course

Adam Baron

1st June- 6th June 2015

- designed for aspiring and accomplished writers alike who want to enhance their fiction writing skills
- provides insight into story structure and includes informal reading as part of the course

Workshops will focus on students' own writing - on plot development, characterisation and tone. Students will be asked to read some short texts and to complete exercises to complete when not in class. The course may be taken in combination with either of the courses offer in the second week: Poetry or Fiction.

## Non- Fiction Writing Course

Sam Jordison

1st June- 6th June 2015

- helps students decide what they want to write about, how to write it, and how to convince other people that they will want to read it.
- looks at how to focus in on a topic; test ideas and proposals against the current market; assess them in terms of originality and entertainment value
- examines strategies for attracting the attention of agents and editors

Students will bring to class a one page synopsis and short elevator pitch for their project. They will work on these for half the period each day with the aim of refining ideas, and producing a strong covering letter and finished synopsis by the end of the week. They will work on developing sample chapters - and give some thought to the important question of title as well as spend some time looking at the art of non-fiction and some master-classes in the genre. Recommended, although not compulsory, works include *Out Of Sheer Rage* by Geoff Dyer, *A Walk In The Woods* by Bill Bryson and *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins.

## Poetry Writing Course

Ann Fisher- Wirth

8th June- 13th June 2015

- based on interactive workshops - combines the satisfaction of learning more about poetic techniques with the pleasure of discovering the profound embeddedness of the self in its world
- analyses the way poems are structured and how they form works together with content to generate meaning(s) and ambiguity
- includes short in-class writing exercises and workshopping of the creative pieces that participants submit

Part of the time students will discuss readings that will be sent as a course packet—a variety of recent poems in English—in order to understand how they are structured. The lecturer is also a licensed 200-hour yoga instructor and will offer to lead yoga sometime during the afternoon.

## Fiction Writing Course

Lizzie Enfield

8th June- 13th June 2015

- designed for writers of mixed abilities and genres: novels, short stories, novellas, and flash fiction
- combines exchange of ideas and feedback within group workshops with individual tutorials allowing for constructive criticism of written drafts

Taught by an acclaimed novelist and short story writer, the course will include group exercises and discussions that will focus on the building of blocks of fiction - voice, style, structure, point of view, dialogue and characterization - as well as looking at the wider issues of ethics, context and polemic in a focussed atmosphere of study, respect and support.

#### Locations

British Council,  
17 Kolonaki Square,  
10673,  
Athens  
(nearest tube station  
Syntagma or  
Evangelismos).

British Council,  
43 Tsimiski Street  
546 23  
Thessaloniki

#### Deadline for applications

11 May 2015  
Early birds  
15 April 2014

#### Entry requirements

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a high level of written and spoken English (equivalent to a 6.5 IELTS and 7.0 IELTS in the written module). They will also be required to submit a short sample of work: a selection of poems and/or a prose piece of approximately 2000 words in English

#### Courses fees

Two Week Courses: €600

15% Discount for applicants based in Greece €510

10% Early Bird discount for applications received until 15 April

One- week courses: €300

15% Discount for applicants based in Greece €255

10% Early Bird discount for applications received until 15 April

An additional 5% discount will be given to participants who wish take up more than two separate courses

#### Courses length

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

Two -week courses:  
25 workshop hours + individual/  
small group tutorials + reading

The programme also includes a series of lectures on contemporary British literature with acclaimed writers and academics taking place on Saturday mornings. Certificates of achievement will be awarded upon completion. You can watch the International Creative Writing Video here: <https://vimeo.com/112412858>



# Entry requirements and how to apply

## English language and 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. For assistance with accommodation, please email Maria Papaioannou at the British Council in Athens at [Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr](mailto:Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr)

## How do I apply?

To apply, please email the completed application form to Maria Papaioannou at [Maria.Papaioannou@britishcouncil.gr](mailto: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.

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 the course fee?

Once we've confirmed your participation on the course, 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 & 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.

### ATHENS COURSES

Citibank account number: 0/444215/003  
IBAN: GR 5108400010000000444215003

### 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 'Απολογόγία' 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](mailto: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

# Teaching Staff



Edward Docx

**KJ Orr** is a short fiction writer, whose work has been widely published, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and shortlisted for numerous awards, including the BBC National Short Story Award. She has worked as a writing mentor in London, published critical work and interviews on the short story and is completing a PhD on the form. She is a graduate of the MA in Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Her collection, *Light Box*, is due to be published in 2016.

**Dr Howard Cunnell** is a novelist, short story writer and academic. He has a PhD from the University of London and has been a Leverhulme Fellow at the University of Sussex. He is the author of the novels *Marine Boy* (2008) and *The Sea on Fire* (2012), which the Guardian described as 'mapping new noir territory'. Dr Cunnell is the editor of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road – The Original Scroll* (2007), called by the New York Times 'the living version for our time'. Writer-in-residence with the Kingston Writing School, he is currently completing a memoir, *Hard to Love*, and *Whitman*, a collection of short stories.

**Linda Cracknell** published *Doubling Back: Ten Paths Trodden in Memory* in May 2014. Narrative non-fiction that explores the relationship between landscape, walking and memory, the book has been described as 'a winning combination of memoir, travelogue and literary meditation' and was broadcast in abridged form as BBC Radio Four's Book of the Week. She also writes fiction – two collections of short stories, which are in print, and a novel, *Call of the Undertow* – and radio drama. She teaches creative writing in many settings and is currently writer in residence at a children's hospital in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Dr Maurice Walsh** is the author of *Bitter Freedom: Ireland in a Revolutionary World, 1918–1923*, just published by Faber & Faber. His book *The News from Ireland: Foreign Correspondents and the Irish Revolution* was a TLS Book of the Year choice in 2008. An award-winning documentary maker, he has reported from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the United States and Europe. His essays, reviews and reportage have appeared in *Granta*, the *London Review of Books*, the *Dublin Review*, the *New Statesman*, and many other newspapers in the UK, Ireland and the US. He was Knight Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan in 2001, Alistair Horne Fellow at St Antony's College, Oxford in 2010–11, and teaches journalism at Kingston University.

**Francesca Kay** is an award-winning writer of fiction. Her first novel, *An Equal Stillness*, was serialised on BBC Radio, won the Orange Award for New Writers and was short-listed for the Commonwealth Writers' prize and the Authors' Club First Novel Award. Her second, *The Translation of the Bones*, was long-listed for the Orange Prize in 2012. Both books have been translated into several languages, including Chinese. She won an Asham prize for her short story *Holding the Baby*. Her third novel, *Starveling*, will be published by Faber & Faber in 2016.

**Jonathan Gibbs** is a novelist, academic and critic. His novel *Randall, or The Painted Grape*, was published last year by Galley Beggar Press and is also available/forthcoming in Dutch and French. His short fiction has appeared in publications such as *The Barcelona Review*, *The Best British Short Stories 2014* and *Gorse*. He has taught creative writing at the University of East Anglia and has written on books for the *Independent*, *Telegraph*, *Guardian*, *Times Literary Supplement* and elsewhere.

**Edward Docx** is a British writer who lives and works in London. His first novel, *The Calligrapher*, was cited by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a best book of the year (2004) and was a finalist in *The William Saroyan Prize* and *The Guilford*. It has been translated into eight languages. His second novel, *Self Help in the UK and Pravda in the US*, won *The Geoffrey Faber Prize* and was long-listed for the *Man Booker*. Amazon (USA) listed *Pravda* as one of the best books of the year (2008), and *The Hay Festival* committee named Docx as one of the 21 most gifted young writers from around the world. His third novel, *The Devil's Garden*, has recently been published. He has been short-listed for *The George Orwell Prize for Journalism* and regularly appears on radio and television as a cultural commentator.

**A.J. Hartley** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author of books in a variety of genres. His thrillers include *The Mask of Atreus*, *On The Fifth Day*, *What Time Devours* and *Tears of the Jaguar*, all of which have been translated into almost thirty languages worldwide. His fantasy adventure series (*Act of Will* and *Will Power*), centering on eighteen-year-old actor, Will Hawthorne, was first published by Tor. With David Hewson, he is the co-author of *Macbeth, a Novel*, an adaptation of Shakespeare's

# Teaching Staff



Sam Jordison



K J Orr



Winsome Pinnock

play written specially for audio, voiced by Alan Cumming, nominated for a 2012 Audie in the Best Original Work category and published as a conventional book in spring 2012. Hartley and Hewson's *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, A Novel*, released as an audio book in 2014, was named Audible's Best Book of 2014. The first of Hartley's middle grades fantasy adventure series, *Darwen Arkwright and the Peregrine Pact*, appeared in 2011, followed by *Darwen Arkwright and the Insidious Bleck* in 2012, and *Darwen Arkwright and the School of Shadows* in 2013.

**Winsome Pinnock** is a scriptwriter whose plays include *Taken, Leave Taking, Talking in Tongues* and *One Under*. Her plays have been produced at the Royal Court Theatre, Royal National Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith and Soho Theatre in London, in San Francisco (Magic Theatre), Los Angeles (Ahmandson Theatre), and in Jamaica and Australia. Prizes include the George Devine Award, Unity Theatre Award and Pearson Plays on Stage Award. She was Senior Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University and worked as a Script Editor for BBC television. She has also written for radio and television, and has taught with the Royal Court's International Department. She is currently Head of Department for Creative Writing at Kingston University.

**Ahren Warner** is the Poetry Editor of Poetry London, the leading independent poetry magazine in the UK, and a Research Associate with the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts. His books include *Confer* (2011) and *Pretty* (2013). He is the recipient of an Arts Foundation Fellowship, a Society of Authors Eric Gregory Award and two Poetry Book Society Recommendations.

**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 has recently completed a new novel as well as a PhD in Creative Writing at Brunel University under the supervision of Fay Weldon.

**Sam Jordison** is the author of seven non-fiction books, several of them bestsellers in the UK, and has helped many other writers to publication as an editorial consultant. He is a co-director of an award-winning publishing company, Galley Beggar Press. He is also a journalist who writes for the

Guardian and Independent newspapers about books and publishing. He takes regular workshops as writer in residence for the Kingston Writing School at Kingston University.

**Ann Fisher-Wirth** published her fourth book of poems, *Dream Cabinet*, with Wings Press in 2012. Her other books of poems are *Carta Marina, Blue Window* and *Five Terraces*. With Laura-Gray Street, she co-edited the ground-breaking *Ecopoetry Anthology*, published by Trinity University Press early in 2013. Her poems appear widely and have received numerous awards, including a Malahat Review Long Poem Prize, the Rita Dove Poetry Award, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Poetry Award, two Mississippi Arts Commission fellowships and thirteen Pushcart nominations, including a Special Mention. Her current project is a collaborative poetry/photography manuscript called *Mississippi* with the acclaimed photographer Maude Schuyler Clay. She teaches at the University of Mississippi, where she also directs the minor in Environmental Studies. In addition, she teaches yoga at Southern Star Yoga Studio in Oxford, Mississippi.

**Lizzie Enfield** combines novel writing with work as a freelance journalist, contributing to several UK national newspapers and magazines. She also teaches journalism and creative writing at a wide range of institutions. Her latest novel, *Living With It*, was a Mail on Sunday Book of the Week and featured on Woman's Hour. Lizzie has written two previous novels, *Uncoupled* and *What You Don't Know* (Headline), and her short stories have been broadcast on Radio 4 and published in various magazines.



Lizzie Enfield



Linda Cracknell

“The schedule was perfect and every student had the possibility to present his thoughts or written work to be critiqued ”

participant, Fiction Writing course 2014

“Very well on a personal and a team level; balanced between attention to technical detail and wider discussion of ideas. The variety of assignments offered chances to improve my work on a broad spectrum.”

participant, Flash Fiction writing course 2014





“The course exceeded my expectations. I would compare it to a finely-tuned training program, like getting fit to run a marathon. Following the end of the course, I felt ready to “run the extra mile”, metaphorically speaking”

participant, Non- Fiction Writing course  
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/>