

Word Space South West Talent development programme How to apply

December 2021

Word Space is a new annual talent development programme from Literature Works, launching in April 2022 and supporting a group of up to 15 writers from across the South West to develop their work through mentoring from established writers, peer support, industry insight, advice sessions with Literature Works staff, performances, and access to a growing network of writers.

Participants will be selected through open call to join Word Space for an initial year from April 2022-March 2023. You will set your own creative writing goals at the outset, which you will review and refine during the period with support from your mentor and an online peer writer group.

Word Space will be delivered online, as a new digital programme which supports new writing, inclusivity and knowledge exchange in innovative ways. Word Space is delivered by Literature Works working with partners who share our focus on inclusive, diverse writer development opportunities, reaching out to underrepresented groups and to underserved, rural locations. The programme will create online spaces for you to collaborate and feedback as a group, adding to this ongoing one-to-one mentoring and the opportunity for shared performance.

Word Space is for developing practitioners who are serious about their work and ready to take it to the next level. It will be open for submissions throughout December 2021 and January 2022, through an open call.

Structure

The inaugural 2022 group will come together as follows:

- Peer support writing group – ongoing group feedback and support using a specially curated Slack space. A mixed genre group, designed, curated and moderated in Slack as a ‘Word Space’, where participants can interact, share reading recommendations and post their work in preparation for -
- Writing feedback sessions on Zoom – facilitated by an established writer, each participant will submit writing for group workshopping feedback at a live session at least twice in the year.
- Whole intake - once each month for an online industry insight session with Literature Works, partners and other sector professionals – agents, editors etc.
- One-to-one – three scheduled one-to-one mentoring sessions with your assigned mentor.
- Individual advice - Literature Works will offer each participant the opportunity to book one of our free online Advice Surgeries, focused on topics such as funding sources, networks, social media and online presence.

Fee

We prioritise inclusion in everything we do and the pricing structure for this first year of Word Space is significantly subsidised to make it accessible to all. The full, all-inclusive fee for the year is set at



£400. Concessionary places are available at £300 and additional bursary support is also available on application. Payment by instalment will be possible and we will be in touch with successful applications about payment once the selection process is complete.

How to apply

Please read the submission criteria below carefully before you start your application. Submissions will close at midnight on Sunday 30th January 2022.

We are hosting online open briefing events on **Friday 17th December 2021, 1-2pm** and on **Thursday 13th January 2022, 1-2pm** for people interested in finding out more about Word Space before making an application. You can view and book your place [here](#)

The detail

This is a chance for a selected group of up to 15 emerging writers living or working in the South West to secure a year of support, mentoring and peer feedback from established writers and industry professionals.

To qualify you must:

- Live, work or study in the South West region. (If you do not live in the region, you may be asked to provide evidence of your link to the South West.)
- Be writing creatively in one of four broad genres for this first year: fiction (short and long), poetry and creative non-fiction
- Be looking to develop your writing and take it to the next level
- Have done some writing, but still feel you are not a full-time writer, or you might be working in a new genre (for instance, moving from scriptwriting to poetry). You may have had some work published (magazines, online literary journals, competitions) but writing will most likely not be your main source of income. Please note this scheme is not intended for complete beginners to creative writing.
- Be available to participate in the majority of: 12 monthly online industry insight sessions, three one-to-one mentoring sessions with your assigned mentor, ongoing peer group feedback sessions, at least two Zoom feedback workshops during the year and at least one opt-in culminating performance of your work.
- Writers who are currently studying creative writing at higher education level are not eligible to apply to take part in Word Space.

Selection criteria:

Submissions will be assessed anonymously on the basis of the following:

- The quality of work
- Evidence of a commitment to writing professionally
- Demonstrable readiness through clear writing goals.

Deadline and dates

Submissions will close at midnight on Sunday 30th January 2022. No applications will be accepted after this time. Successful applicants will be contacted in late February, and the public announcement will be made in April 2022.

Submitting your application

Please use the online form [here](#) to upload your application. **Please do not include your name on the submission document that you upload, as all work will be assessed anonymously.** We will require these three elements to your application, uploaded via the online form as **one** document (either Word or PDF) -

1. Two-year writing history:

A short statement (200 words max) describing your writing in the last two years. This is your opportunity to also tell us about any projects you have been involved in, particular successes or failures, and how your writing has developed.

2. Examples of your writing:

Up to three examples totalling no more than 3,000 words of your creative writing (this is 3,000 words for all three examples, not 3,000 words each). These can be stories, extracts, poems, scenes or creative prose. Please submit these typed.

Spoken word artists/performance poets, you may submit at least one of your examples as an audio or visual file via WeTransfer to info@literatureworks.org.uk. Please ensure that you adhere to the word count and do **not** include or reference your name within the audio/visual file. We will pick up your name and email address from WeTransfer. **Please DO NOT attempt to submit any audio-visual files via the online form.**

If you require support to make a submission via WeTransfer, please email info@literatureworks.org.uk and we will be happy to help.

3. Statement of readiness

A short statement (200 words max) about why you are ready for Word Space now and what your writing goals will be for the year.

When your submission is completed, you will be redirected to a webpage confirming that we have received it. If you have any queries, you can contact us on info@literatureworks.org.uk

Access needs

Please let us know about access requirements you may have, and what we can do that would help to remove any barriers.

Partner nominations

Literature Works is promoting and delivering Word Space in collaboration with a group of partners who share our focus on writer development, inclusion and diversity. Each of our partners will nominate one participant for automatic inclusion in the cohort. When you send your submission, you may tell us whether you wish to be considered for one of these nominated partner places. By doing so, you are giving permission for us to share your submission and your contact details with the partner that you select. Your submission will still go through to the main selection process, but will also connect you with the partner organisation that you have identified. They will use our set selection criteria to nominate their Word Space participant.

Our partnership will help to create a connected network of writer support and development for all applicants. Our partners are:

[Out on the Page](#) – supporting LGBTQ+ writers

[Speaking Volumes](#) – supporting writers of colour and underrepresented voices

[Dialect Writers](#), Gloucestershire – supporting writers in rural and underserved locations
[The Bookery](#), Crediton – supporting writers and teachers as writers in rural Devon
[Little Toller Books](#) – supporting writing about nature and rural life

Each of the five applicants selected by a partner for one of the nominated places will receive additional support from that partner during the year.

Terms and Conditions

Word Space is a development programme during which writers will be offered advice and guidance. The programme will not publish or represent writers. Copyright, as in all cases with programmes of this nature, remains with the writer. The submissions decision is final and we will not enter into discussions about the outcome of your submission. We regret that we cannot return anything submitted with your application.