

UK RESIDENCY OPPORTUNITY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL SHORT STORY WRITER

We have an opportunity for a non-UK based writer to spend up to one week as a Writer in Residence at this year's [Small Wonder Short Story Festival](#), which runs from 28 September – 2 October 2016.

- The residency would suit a writer at any stage of their career who is interested in responding creatively to and within the Small Wonder environment and making connections with the UK short story sector.
- The writer's programme will be fully tailored to the individual, but is expected to include opportunities for meeting with UK writers and literary professionals, hospitality and networking possibilities, as well as space and time to develop the writer's own work independently.
- The writer must be able to understand and communicate in English fluently, although the writer need not be writing creatively in English.

About Small Wonder – THE Short Story festival

This will be the 13th year of Small Wonder, which this year takes place from 28 Sept – 2 Oct 2016. Small Wonder is the foremost dedicated short story festival in the UK. It takes place at Charleston in East Sussex, the former home of the Bloomsbury artists Vanessa Bell (sister of Virginia Woolf) and Duncan Grant. It's located very close to the internationally renowned opera centre at Glyndebourne, the town of Lewes and the city of Brighton. Events take place in the grounds, seating around 200, with an independent book shop on site. We programme a variety of types of sessions, most of which include more than one author. Charleston is a very atmospheric and culturally resonant rural setting in the heart of the South Downs National Park, and Small Wonder attracts a dedicated and vibrant audience.

About the Residency

Small Wonder hosted its first International Writer in Residence in September 2015. Barbara Jenkins from Trinidad was selected and she attended festival events, participated in networking and hospitality events with other writers, had meetings with writers and literature programmers and wrote daily [blogs](#) to reflect on her experiences. Barbara felt the opportunity was immensely valuable:

I came away inspired not only to get on with it and finish the novel that's been languishing but also to go back to my first love - the short story.

Any international short story writer gifted with a British Council residency at Small Wonder is a very fortunate person. The exposure to a wide variety of writing and writers, the tremendous hospitality, the warm welcome & comfortable accommodation, the smooth arrangements with transport, the amazing setting in East Sussex, the immersion in such a potent, alive, literary and cultural location with its stories and ghosts and energy is what dreams are made of.

What's included in the residency:

- Entrance to the entire Small Wonder programme of around 16 mainstream sessions plus fringe events and workshops
- All local travel, meals, per diems, hospitality
- £250 stipend paid to the writer directly
- Mentoring from a UK literary professional after the Festival

Additional costs not covered by the programme:

- International flights
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Half board accommodation, very close to Charleston (estimated £100 per night B&B)

Expectations

By the end of the residency we would like the writer to create a short piece of work in any genre which in some way responds to the festival and / or its setting at Charleston. Rights will remain with the writer, but the work will be available for Charleston / British Council to use in its promotional literature, websites and social media platforms. Translation would be provided if necessary.

APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

Applications and expressions of interest should be sent in English to Rebecca Hart, (Rebecca.Hart@britishcouncil.org) Senior Programme Manager Literature, British Council London **by 6 May 2016.**

Please submit:

- Biography (no more than 400 words)
- Letter of application which should address the following questions (in no more than 800 words):
 - Why are you applying for this residency and how will it benefit your work?
 - What are you particularly interested in exploring as part of the residency? (please describe any specific themes, new connections, research that you are keen to undertake)
 - Do you have any current connections to UK short story writers, festivals or publishers?
 - Have you taken part in any other professional international creative writing residencies before?
- Confirm that you are available during the entire period 28 September – 2 October 2016 and that you will be able to access funding to cover your flights, visa and accommodation.
- Provide the name, position and email address of a reference who we may contact during the selection process.

Selection will be a competitive process, based on letters of application. Final decisions will be made by a committee comprised of British Council and Small Wonder representatives. Priority will be given to applications which demonstrate the greatest impact to the writer and their work.

British Council Equal Opportunity and Diversity Statement

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community and will make suitable accommodations for applicants with a disability.