



WESTERN STUDENT WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Position Title:	Western Student Writer-in-Residence
Supervisor:	Western's English Department and the University Students' Council
Remuneration:	Honoraria \$1000 (\$500 per semester)
Hours of Work:	7-10 hours per week average, 10-15 hours during peak time
Term:	September 1st to March 30th

OVERVIEW

The mandate of the Western Student Writer-in-Residence (SWIR) program is to provide support for an accomplished undergraduate writer while allowing other students to benefit from the writer's creativity, expertise, and organizational skills. The SWIR will support and foster exchange among aspiring student writers and contribute to the culture of creativity across campus. The SWIR will be a high-profile lightning rod for creative activity at Western, fostering dialogue not only across campus communities and within the London area, but across literary genres, media, and technologies.

EXPECTATIONS

The SWIR is expected to provide mentorship for student writers, to take a leadership role at a variety of literary and cultural events on campus, and to develop and present their own writing. The responsibilities of the SWIR may include:

- Holding 2 weekly office hours to consult with and mentor other student writers;
- Providing opportunities for student writers to present and develop their work, eg., sponsoring readings, hosting workshops, participating in USC sponsored poetry slams, Nuit Violette, Festival of the Arts, and/or organizing events around writing as a career;
- Meeting with and providing support for editorial boards and writers of various student publications, including online blogs and magazines such as the Arts and Humanities Students' Council publications Semicolon, Symposium and Premier;
- Consulting and/or collaborating with the Western Writer-in-Residence on their activities;
- Keeping an activity log;
- Submitting a reflection piece of approximately 1000 words describing their accomplishments and contributions during the residency to both the English Department and the USC Student Programs Officer at the completion of their term on April 30th;



- Sitting as a committee member on the USC's Public Arts Coordinator committee;
- Being a student representative on London's WORDS festival planning committee.

OUTCOMES

The SWIR reinforces Western's role as both hub and stimulus for the integrally linked activities of intellectual inquiry, cultural creativity and social engagement. The SWIR will increase knowledge and appreciation of writing as an artistic and a professional endeavour on campus, and will raise the profile of Western as a centre of creativity for the local community.

The position will provide a capstone experience for a fourth-year student, encouraging the SWIR to explore their potential as a publishing writer and as a community builder, mentor, and organizer. It may also function as an Experiential Learning opportunity, since the SWIR will have the option of counting the position as .5 course credit, by enrolment in and English and Writing fourth year Independent Reading or Internship course, with a faculty supervisor. ^[1]

The SWIR will benefit from the mentorship of, collaboration with, and publicity generated by the Department of English Writer-in-Residence, who is a well-established non-student writer.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

Application

Application to the SWIR program is open to third-year students in any discipline, full or part time; the SWIR position will be held by a student in fourth year. Candidates will apply for the position of Student Writer-in-Residence by March 30th of the year preceding the tenure of the position, and will serve from September 1st to April 30th of the following year. Applicants will submit a list of publications and relevant experience, a writing portfolio of approximately 10 pages, and a 300-word Statement of Intent, describing how they would contribute to Western's creative community.

Selection

Selection of the Student Writer-in-Residence will be made by a committee composed of one representative from the USC and two faculty members from the Department of

^[1] In this case, the requirements and conditions would be set in consultation with the program.



English and Writing, in consultation with the current Western Writer-in-Residence. The selection process will consist of two stages: all applications will be reviewed by the selection committee, and then a select few applicants will be offered an interview for the position. Selection criteria will include the quality of the writer's work, their writing and publishing experience, and potential contributions to the cultural life of the university.

SUPPORT

The program will be administered jointly by USC and the Department of English and Writing.

SWIR will be supported by USC in their programming activities, and will be overseen by the Student Programs Officer. Event management and marketing assistance will be made available, as will support in the form of introduction to key service providers on campus.

The Department of English will provide office space for a set number of hours per week, and a telephone for the writer's use during office hours.

An honorarium of \$1000 will be supplied by funding from USC and the Department of English and Writing.