



# Ollscoil Mhá Nuad Maynooth University

## Department of English & The Arts Council Writer in Residence 2026

### The Role

The Arts Council and Maynooth University invite applications from mid-career and established writers for Writer in Residence for the calendar year 2026.

The Arts Council Writer in Residence programme was established to provide a stimulating environment for the resident writer, as well as to afford a degree of financial support to concentrate on their own practice. Additionally, the residency brings energy and dynamism to the university, and allows students and faculty to engage with a practicing writer for a concentrated period.

### About the residency

The Writer in Residence will be engaged for the calendar year 2026 and will be situated in the Department of English in Maynooth University, with the opportunity to engage with the wider campus.

The residency will be divided into two parts:

- From January to June 2026, the Writer in Residence will be supported to concentrate on their own practice.
- From July onwards, the writer will be supported to engage with students and staff. This programme of engagement will be designed by the resident writer, in consultation with the faculty of the university, and could include focused teaching, workshops, mentoring, public events or other activities which bring new energy to the creative writing programme.

The writer in residence will contribute 2-4 hours per week to the MA in Creative Writing and will hold additional office hours. Contact time with staff and students will be capped at 4 hours per week. The writer will not be expected to deliver core curriculum.



## The Department of English

Maynooth University Department of English has sixteen full-time staff members and offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses based on its internationally recognised research strengths in Anglophone and other literatures from the early modern period to the present day. The study of Anglophone literatures across the early modern and modern period has long been at the forefront of the mission of the Department. We aim to provide our students with an exciting and rewarding learning experience. Our internationally recognised lecturers are dedicated to allowing students to achieve their full potential as readers, writers, and critics, as well as citizens of a complex world. Our extensive suite of core and option modules in English and Anglophone literatures at the BA level are carefully designed to provide learners with the knowledges, competencies, and challenges of the discipline, as well as important transferable skills. At postgraduate level, the Department offers a taught MA programme, "Literatures of Engagement", dedicated to exploring literature's place in the world, a taught MA programme in Creative Writing, as well as a structured PhD programme

## Eligibility

The residency is open to **mid-career and established writers** working in prose fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, and children's fiction and poetry.

To be **eligible to apply**, applicants must:

- Be resident in the Republic of Ireland.
- **Be mid-career or established writers.** For the purpose of the Arts Council residency programme, mid-career and established is defined by the Arts Council as writers and illustrators with a demonstrable publishing track record, having published at least one full collection, novel or picture book with an independent, recognised publisher.
- Have a publishing track record in the areas of prose fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, graphic novels and/or children's fiction and poetry. Applications from writers who have not published in these areas will not be considered. Writers working exclusively as playwrights are not eligible for this residency.
- The residency is only open to writers who have not undertaken an Arts Council/university residency in 2025. This is to ensure that a range of artists can avail of these unique opportunities.
- In line with the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, the Arts Council is committed to ensuring that it takes positive policy measures to promote equality of opportunity for all those living in Ireland, regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, civil or family status, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Traveller Community. Furthermore, the Arts Council notes the ground of socioeconomic background as a further basis for which equality of opportunity must be guaranteed. The Arts Council therefore welcomes applications that are representative of the diversity of Irish society, including but not limited to any of the characteristics outlined above.

## Making an Application

To make an application, writers should provide the following **three** documents:

1. A detailed proposal of 1-2 pages, which sets out how they would propose to engage with students, staff and the wider campus, and relevant experience to support this approach.



2. A one-page artist's statement, which describes how the residency could impact on the artist's practice.
3. A detailed CV, setting out artistic achievements and accomplishments. This should be no longer than 3 pages.

## Assessment Process

Upon receipt of applications, the Arts Council and Maynooth University will determine the eligibility of applications.

An application will be deemed ineligible, and will not go any further in the selection process, in circumstances where:

1. The application deadline is not met,
2. The eligibility requirements outlined above are not met,
3. The three required documents outlined above are not submitted.

## Selection and Appointment

Following assessment of eligibility, the Arts Council and Maynooth University will establish a selection committee, which will be made up of one representative from Maynooth University, one from the Arts Council and an external panellist with literary expertise. The selection committee will shortlist applicants based on the following criteria:

- artistic track record of applicant,
- quality of idea/approach (referred to above), as outlined in the application, and the potential impact it could make on the relevant university department and university as a whole,
- potential impact of residency on writer's own creative practice.

**A shortlist will be established (of between 4 and 6 writers).**

- Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend for interview.
- It is anticipated that interviews will be held in early December 2025, via video conference call.
- The selection panel will make the final decision based on the above criteria, and decisions will be communicated in December 2025.
- The Residency is expected to be effective from 01 January 2026.

## Terms of the Residency

- This is a 12-month Residency, commencing on 01 January 2026.
- A fee of €30,000 is offered to the Writer in Residence (with the Arts Council contributing €20,000 and the university €10,000). The fee will be paid in two instalments.
- A final report will be produced by the writer at the conclusion of the Residency.
- Maynooth University will provide the Writer in Residence with a dedicated space within the university, where they can conduct their own creative practice. Maynooth University will also support the Residency administratively.
- Garda vetting or clearance may be required by the University.



## **Closing Date:**

Closing date for applications is:

**17:30hrs (local Irish time) on Thursday 02 October 2025.**

Please note all applications must be made via our **Online Recruitment Portal** at the following link:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/human-resources/vacancies>

Applications must be submitted by the closing date and time specified above. Any applications which are still in progress at the closing time on the specified closing date will be cancelled automatically by the system.

Late applications will not be accepted.

