International Writing Program

Director
• Christopher Merrill

Faculty: https://iwp.uiowa.edu/about-iwp/iwp-staff
Website: https://iwp.uiowa.edu

The International Writing Program (IWP) conducts a unique fall residency program for established writers from outside the United States, and a summer writing program for American and international high school students. During spring semester, IWP offers courses related to the program’s general mission, including collaborative distance learning courses for writing students overseas. The program regularly offers Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on literary topics.

Residency Program

Each fall the International Writing Program assembles a community of poets, fiction writers, essayists, playwrights, and journalists for a one-semester residency on campus. Participants range from emerging talents to writers who are among their countries’ leading literary figures and writers of world stature. For most of them, their time in the program is their first, or their first extended, stay in the United States.

At the University they live and interact with each other while working on writing and translation projects and participating in public events. Throughout their residency, they present their work in IWP:3191 International Literature Today and IWP:5205 International Translation Workshop and participate as guests in many other courses on campus, including a First-Year Seminar for new University of Iowa undergraduates. They also interact with the public through readings, panel discussions, a film series, and other presentations.

Since 1967 almost 1,500 writers from nearly 190 countries have participated in the program.

International Writing Program participants are supported by the U.S. Department of State, through bilateral agreements with many countries, by grants from cultural institutions and governments abroad, and by private funds. The program does not provide grants for writers.

For more information, contact the International Writing Program or visit its website.

Summer Program

Between the Lines

Between the Lines is an IWP summer program that brings American high school students together with students from Russia and the Arabic-speaking world for two weeks during the first half of July. Between the Lines students explore creative writing and world literature in a multilingual, multicultural environment. They attend a language-specific writing workshop, in which they create and share stories and poetry with their peers. They also participate in a literature seminar conducted in English, where they discuss works written by American and international authors.

International students are nominated by embassies in their home countries. American students who have completed grade 10, 11, or 12 may apply to the program; they must complete an online application and submit samples of their creative work, a statement of purpose, a letter of recommendation from a teacher familiar with their writing, and a current high school transcript. Contact Between the Lines for more information.

Between the Lines is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Courses

International Writing Program Courses

IWP:1009 Undergraduate Internship arr.
Professional experience for students interested in arts management and international literature. Requirements: undergraduate standing, minimum of 36 s.h. of course work, and consultation with IWP director.

IWP:1102 On Campus Independent Study arr.
Independent study arranged in collaboration with instructor.

IWP:3191 International Literature Today 1,3 s.h.
English majors may apply this course to the following area and/or period requirement. AREA: Transnational Literature and Postcolonial Studies. PERIOD: 20th/21st-Century Literature. Same as ENGL:3595, WLLC:3191.

IWP:3201 Writing and Publishing for the Literary Web arr.
Technical aspects of web publishing, including step-by-step instruction on using content management systems (Drupal and Wordpress); specific stylistic and editorial protocols associated with contributing to literary websites; utilize and navigate a content management system; create a contributor portfolio of online work, including media items, reviews, interviews, and blog posts.

IWP:3210 Comparative Arts 3 s.h.
Cultural and aesthetic issues arising from side-by-side investigation of several art forms, including literature, cinema, painting, music, opera, architecture; periods, schools, styles, and their theories. Same as CL:3210.

IWP:5205 International Translation Workshop 1-3 s.h.
International writers pair with University of Iowa translators to write new works of poetry and fiction in English; second-language fluency not required for international writers. Same as TRNS:5205.

Writing across genres; exploration of modes and voices different from chosen genres (i.e., poets may test the waters of playwriting, nonfiction writers of translation, translators of fiction); rotations by guest faculty; workshop includes students associated with contributing to literary websites; utilize and consult with IWP director.

IWP:6635 Crossing Borders Seminar 2-3 s.h.

IWP:7460 Translation Workshop 3 s.h.
Requirements: at least one foreign language. Same as TRNS:7460.