



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

LU XUN ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAMME FOR SINGAPORE WRITERS (1 MONTH)

The National Arts Council (Singapore) and the Lu Xun Academy of Literature (China) are pleased to jointly offer Singapore Chinese writers a place at the **International Writing Programme**. For 2020, Singapore Chinese writers are invited to apply for an international writing programme in Beijing for a period of one month from March to April.

1. WRITING PROGRAMME DETAILS

The **International Writing Programme** is the Writing Programme of the Lu Xun Academy of Literature, which provides residential facilities for writers, to work in and focus on their craft, as well as networking opportunities with China's literary scene and other international writers. Every half a year, Lu Xun Academy of Literature will invite 10 foreign writers to reside at Lu Xun Academy of Literature. For the first half of next year, one Singapore writer will be offered a place as part of the programme. Apart from developing their own manuscript during the one-month long programme, participating writers will have the opportunity to attend literary seminars and meetings as well as visit literary organisations.

The Lu Xun Academy of Literature is the only national agency that provides a range of capability development platforms for writers in China. It is under the purview of the China Writers Association, which supports all writers in China and awards the nation's top four literary awards to writers. In addition to that, through Lu Xun Academy of Literature, the China Writers Association conducts seminars and workshops for writers and translators, throughout the course of a year.

2. DURATION OF WRITING PROGRAMME

Writers are expected to stay for the **full duration of one (1) month**. The duration of the next run of the Lu Xun International Writing Programme is from **25 March to 25 April 2020**.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAMME

This initiative is part of the National Arts Council's on-going efforts to:

- Support the creation of new works;

- Develop Singapore writers through their participation in relevant established international residency platforms;
- Open up opportunities to nurture Singapore's artists, address skill gaps in the arts industry and facilitate knowledge transfer to benefit the Singapore arts community; and
- Enable networking opportunities and cultural exchanges with international counterparts and provide first-hand insights to the international arts world.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants eligible for this residency support should:

- a) Be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents who are published writers in Chinese language and are actively engaged in the literary arts scene;
- b) Possess a strong track record, strong artistic merit, commitment towards advancing the art form and contribution to the Singapore arts scene;
- c) Be in the midst of creating a new work or intending to start on a new work; and
- d) Be inclined to learn, explore different perspectives, and share their own knowledge and perspectives on creative writing.

5. ASSESSMENT

Applicants will be assessed based on a competitive evaluation process and the following criteria:

- a) Strength of proposal
 - i. Statement of purpose and objectives
 - ii. Synopsis of new work and outline of work plan
 - iii. Why is this residency appropriate for you at this time?
 - iv. How might this experience help you as a writer?
 - v. What do you plan to achieve during the residency to consider it successful?
- b) Artistic merit and potential of the applicant
- c) Ability and commitment to undertake and complete the residency
- d) Benefit and relevance of the residency to the applicant's creative and professional development
- e) Capacity and commitment to the development and contribution to the Singapore arts scene

6. TERMS OF WRITING PROGRAMME

As the selection process is highly competitive, **a maximum of one** Singapore writer will be selected for the Programme that starts in March 2020 and will be offered the following support:

- Residency programming, accommodation and three meals daily
- Subsistence allowance for ground transport
- One economy class airfare for one from Singapore to Beijing, and application fees for a non-immigrant visa
- Insurance

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applications are to be emailed to: nac_literary_arts@nac.gov.sg by **5pm on 20 December 2019**. Late applications or applications with incomplete documents will not be accepted.

Completed applications *must* be accompanied by the following supporting documents:

- Completed application form
- Detailed curriculum vitae, with a record of applicant's publications and writing
- Project proposal
- One passport-style photograph
- Character reference
- Excerpts of two past works in Chinese (3-5 pages for each work)

For enquiries, please contact Mr Siah Sheng Yuan, Manager, Sector Development (Literary Arts) at DID: 6346 9575 or Email: siah_sheng_yuan@nac.gov.sg

8. NOTIFICATION OF OUTCOME

Applicants will be notified of the outcome by NAC in **January 2020**. NAC and Lu Xun Academy's decision is final. Successful applicants will receive a Letter of Offer stating the terms and conditions of the award and expected writing programme outcomes.

9. CONDITIONS OF THE WRITING PROGRAMME

An applicant, upon being notified that his or her application is successful, shall inform NAC of his or her acceptance within 14 days after the day of the notification, failing which the residency will be deemed to have been withdrawn.

The successful applicant is expected to be involved in NAC publicity (all media forms) on the International Writing Programme any time before, during or upon completion of the programme.

The successful applicant should devote his or her whole time to the writing programme and apply himself or herself to the programme to the best of his or her ability and to the satisfaction

of the Academy associated therewith and participate in all the activities of the writing programme and comply with the rules and regulations in force at, and the directions of, the Academy.

To help NAC and the Lu Xun Academy of Literature in the evaluation and management of the programme, the successful applicant has to provide NAC with the following within two months upon completion of the writing programme:

Written Evaluation Report (*Please include photographs taken during writing programme*) **detailing**

- a) The work done
- b) Acknowledgement of the sponsorship from Lu Xun Academy of Literature
- c) Summary of key learning points and writing programme experiences
- d) Articulating short and long-term initiatives for employing ideas and skills gain
- e) The networking with China writers and literary organisations

Evidence of Work accomplished during the Writing Programme period in the form of

- f) A draft manuscript of new work/s developed during the writing programme.

NOTE: These reports and copies of work are for record keeping and archival purposes only, and will not be published.

NAC also reserves the right to review or withdraw the writing programme award should any of the following occur:

- a) The proposed project which receives funding is changed significantly without the prior written approval of National Arts Council. NAC must be informed in writing of any changes to the proposed project at least seven working days prior to the project's original execution date. These changes include any changes in the programme, key artistic personnel, venue, and/or date of the project. A project may not be postponed more than once. Any postponement and/or cancellation must be fully explained in writing.
- b) Wrong and/or misleading information is provided in the application form, either deliberately or otherwise.
- c) Illegal or negligent acts that occur during any point of the funded project, which will adversely affect the reputation of the National Arts Council, any government bodies, public institutions, national leaders or your organisation.

10. FUNDING GUIDELINES

While artistic merit is a key factor in funding decisions, statutory body disbursing public funds in line with Government policies, the Council gives consideration to whether the work is potentially a negative influence to society. NAC will prioritise funding to proposals which do not:

- a) Advocate or lobby for lifestyles seen as objectionable by the general public;

- b) Denigrate or debase a person, group or class of individuals on the basis of race or religion, or serve to create conflict or misunderstanding in our multicultural and multi-religious society; and
- c) Undermine the authority or legitimacy of the government and public institutions, or threaten the nation's security or stability.