

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR  
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING – SINGAPORE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME 2026  
SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL**

The National Arts Council (Singapore) and National Centre for Writing (United Kingdom) would like to invite writers and translators from Singapore to participate in the [National Centre for Writing – Singapore Residency Programme 2026](#), supported by the NAC. The programme will fully fund literary writers/translators for their participation.

Submission of applications will close on **17 April 2026 (Friday), 2359 hrs.** Successful applicants will be notified by early May 2026.

<b>In-Person Programme</b>	A <b>1-month</b> long, in-person residency at the National Centre for Writing, in Norwich, UK, in the month of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• July 2026 (priority will be given to translators)</li><li>• October 2026</li></ul>
<b>Virtual Programme (part-time)</b>	A <b>6-month</b> long, online, part-time residency for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• June – December 2026</li></ul>

## 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

This initiative is part of the National Arts Council’s ongoing efforts to:

- Support Singapore artists in the development of their creative practice through participation in established international platforms.
- Enable networking opportunities and cultural exchanges with international counterparts.

Participants will get the opportunity to tap on a NCW mentor for feedback on their own manuscript and will also receive an honorarium to work on their proposed project and participate in the programme’s activities. These activities include possibly recording a podcast for NCW’s podcast series, contributing their writing/translation tips for NCW’s blog, etc.

Please refer to **Annex A** for the detailed scope and requirements of the programme.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY

Applicants eligible for this programme must:

- a. Be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents who are published writers/translators in any of Singapore’s four official languages: English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil.
- b. Be actively engaged in the literary arts industry.
- c. Be able to converse and write in English.
- d. Possess a strong track record, strong artistic merit, and commitment towards advancing the art form and contributing to the Singapore arts scene.
- e. Have the ability and commitment to undertake and complete the programme for its whole duration (i.e. one month for the in-person programme and six months for the virtual programme).

### 3. ASSESSMENT

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

- a. whether the applicant has a strong literary background demonstrated through published works, recognition through awards or positive reviews, and ongoing productivity in creating new literary content.
- b. whether the proposed manuscript idea shows originality, creativity, and literary merit while aligning with the applicant's demonstrated potential and capabilities.
- c. whether the residency will effectively support both the applicant's creative growth and manuscript development, by providing the appropriate structure, resources, and opportunities that match their literary level and project needs.
- d. whether the applicant has a clear post-residency plan and possesses the necessary expertise and resources to continue developing and potentially publish their work beyond the residency period.
- e. whether the applicant's proposal is relevant to the history or culture of the city of Norwich and/or the National Centre for Writing's key areas of focus, which include:
  - (i) connecting people to Norwich's medieval trade and migrant heritage;
  - (ii) promoting diversity, inclusion and anti-racism, especially among Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse literary communities;
  - (iii) using creative writing, thinking and imagination to enrich learning among Primary and Secondary students; and
  - (iv) understanding how words and ideas can help connect people, raise awareness, and promote physical and mental wellness to create a society that reflects and values a diverse range of stories.

It is preferred that the applicants should:

- a. Be inclined to learn, explore different perspectives, and share their own knowledge and perspectives on creative writing.
- b. Have works translated into English, if the applicant's works are written in another language (i.e. Chinese, Malay or Tamil).
- c. [for the translators' programme] Propose a literary work authored by a Singaporean writer for translation during the programme.

#### **About the National Centre for Writing (UK)**

The National Centre for Writing (NCW), previously known as Writers' Centre Norwich, has had a long history in working with writers and writing. As a major literary arts portfolio organisation in the UK, it is funded by the Arts Council England and has strong links with the British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT). Based in Norwich, one of the UNESCO Cities of Literature, NCW aims to be a physical and virtual space for writers, literary translators and those working in the world of literature to meet, learn and collaborate. In addition to their literary programming for the reading public, NCW organises workshops, mentoring and other opportunities for writers and translators at different stages in their career, and participates in projects that range from international partnerships to literary festivals.

More details here: [www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk](http://www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk)

## NCW-Singapore Residency Programme 2026 Requirements for Participants

The selected writers/translators will need to fulfil the following requirements:

### For the In-Person programme:

<b>In-Person Writer's Programme (July 2026/October 2026)</b>	<b>In-Person Translator's Programme (July 2026/October 2026)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend a month-long, in-person residency at Dragon Hall cottage. This two-bedroom cottage serves as a cosy but private residency space attached to the NCW's main building, Dragon Hall, a beautifully refurbished Grade 1-listed, medieval heritage building. The cottage faces an internal courtyard garden, for privacy, but with views of the River Wensum.</li> <li>• Work on a story, essay or series of poems, during their time in Norwich.</li> <li>• Write their experience of residing in Norwich, for the World, Meet Norwich section of NCW's website, which explores the city through literary eyes and allows residents to reflect on the residency and their relationship with Norwich. Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature and is part of the City of Literature global network, an effort spearheaded and managed by the National Centre for Writing (NCW).</li> <li>• Possibly record up to three interviews for the NCW Writing Life podcast, either with the mentor or another interviewer, to be uploaded to the NCW website.</li> <li>• Attend professional development opportunities, such as the NCW Academy workshops.</li> <li>• Attend the monthly Dragon Hall Social, for an opportunity to meet local writers, translators and the literary community in Norwich, where they will have the chance to talk about their work and meet their peers. Individual meetings and/or research visits can also be arranged.</li> <li>• Tap on a mentor who will give feedback on their work during their residency and advise them on their writing career, as well as introducing them to relevant networks. NCW will assign a mentor to each resident based on their interests and the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend a month-long, in-person residency at Dragon Hall cottage. This two-bedroom cottage serves as a cosy but private residency space attached to the NCW's main building, Dragon Hall, a beautifully refurbished Grade 1-listed, medieval heritage building. The cottage faces an internal courtyard garden, for privacy, but with views of the River Wensum.</li> <li>• Work on a translation into English of a work or set of short works by a Singaporean writer, during their time in Norwich.</li> <li>• Write their experience of residing in Norwich, for the World, Meet Norwich section of NCW's website, which explores the city through literary eyes and allows residents to reflect on the residency and their relationship with Norwich. Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature and is also home to the British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT), a world model for the promotion of writing translated from and into many languages and cultures.</li> <li>• Possibly record up to three interviews for the NCW Writing Life podcast, either with the mentor or another interviewer, to be uploaded to the NCW website.</li> <li>• Attend professional development opportunities, such as the plenary events at the BCLT International Literary Translation &amp; Creative Writing Summer School, from Monday 20th July to Friday 24th July 2026, organised by the University of East Anglia and BCLT and run in partnership with NCW.</li> <li>• Attend the monthly Dragon Hall Social, for an opportunity to meet local writers, translators and the literary community in Norwich, where they will have the chance to talk about their work and</li> </ul>

<p>nature of the literary project that they plan to undertake during the residency. Scope will include approximately two mentoring sessions over the month-long period.</p>	<p>meet their peers. Individual meetings and/or research visits can also be arranged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tap on a mentor who will give feedback on their work during their residency and advise them on their translation career, as well as introducing them to relevant networks. NCW will assign a mentor to each resident based on their interests and the nature of the literary project that they plan to undertake during the residency. Scope will include approximately two mentoring sessions over the month-long period.</li> </ul>
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**For the Virtual Programme (part-time):**

<p><b>Virtual Writer’s Programme (June – December 2026)</b></p>	<p><b>Virtual Translator’s Programme (June – December 2026)</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend a six-month-long, part-time virtual residency, where they will actively participate in the residency’s online events but will not physically reside in Norwich nor will they be required to attend events in person.</li> <li>• Work on a commissioned piece of up to 2,000 words for the NCW website, to be profiled in Imagining the City and also featured in NCW’s Writing Hub.</li> <li>• Write their experience of residing virtually in Norwich, for the World, Meet Norwich section of NCW’s website, which explores the real and imagined city through literary eyes. Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature and is part of the City of Literature global network, an effort spearheaded and managed by the National Centre for Writing (NCW).</li> <li>• Contribute their top five writing tips to the Writing Tips section of the NCW Blog.</li> <li>• Curate one online event reflecting the themes of their residency project, in conversation with up to two UK and international writers and/or translators, including their mentor, for the NCW’s Meet the World series. These will be pre-recorded in autumn 2026 and broadcast in early 2027.</li> <li>• Attend professional development opportunities, such as the NCW Academy workshops.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend a six-month-long, part-time virtual residency, where they will actively participate in the residency’s online events but will not physically reside in Norwich nor will they be required to attend events in person.</li> <li>• Work on a translation into English of a work or set of short works by a Singaporean writer, an excerpt of which may be shared on the NCW website.</li> <li>• Write their experience of residing virtually in Norwich, for the World, Meet Norwich section of NCW’s website, which explores the real and imagined city through literary eyes. Norwich is a UNESCO City of Literature and is also home to the British Centre for Literary Translation (BCLT), a world model for the promotion of writing translated from and into many languages and cultures.</li> <li>• Contribute their top five translation tips to the Writing Tips section of the NCW blog.</li> <li>• Curate one online event reflecting the themes of their residency project, in conversation with up to two UK and international writers and/or translators, including their mentor, for the NCW’s Meet the World series. These will be pre-recorded in autumn 2026 and broadcast in early 2027.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend monthly catch-up meetings with the writers and translators in residence, during which they can meet Norwich-based writers and translators, as well as discuss their work in progress.</li> <li>• Tap on a mentor who will give feedback on their work during their residency and advise them on their writing career. NCW will assign a mentor to each resident based on their interests and the nature of the literary project that they plan to undertake during the residency. Scope will include up to four mentoring sessions per virtual resident over the six-month period.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend professional development opportunities, such the BCLT’s online research seminars and events.</li> <li>• Attend monthly catch-up meetings with the writers and translators in residence, during which they can meet Norwich-based writers and translators, as well as discuss their work in progress.</li> <li>• Tap on a mentor who will give feedback on their work during their residency and advise them on their translation career. NCW will assign a mentor to each resident based on their interests and the nature of the literary project that they plan to undertake during the residency. Scope will include up to four mentoring sessions per virtual resident over the six-month period.</li> </ul>
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### Other Details and Requirements

1. [For the in-person residency] The selected participants will receive a stipend to cover meals and have their airfare, lodging, transport, insurance and hospitality costs (to participate in the activities required by the programme) covered while they attend the residency.
2. [For the virtual residency] The selected participants will receive a stipend to work on their proposed project/s and participate in the activities required by the programme.
3. An applicant, upon being notified that their application is successful, shall inform NAC of their acceptance within 14 days of the day of the notification. Failure to meet this deadline will be deemed as a withdrawal of the application.
4. The successful applicant is expected to be involved in NAC publicity (all media forms) related to the programme at any time before, during, or upon completion of the programme.
5. The successful applicant should be able to devote dedicated time on a regular basis to the programme and is expected to contribute to the activities of the programme and actively apply themselves to developing their writing/translation skills over the course of this residency.
6. To help NAC and NCW in the evaluation and management of the programme, the successful applicant should provide NCW with feedback summarising their key learning points, the highlights of their virtual residency experience, and any short and/or long-term initiatives arising from ideas and/or skills gained from the mentorship, upon completion of the programme.
7. NAC also reserves the right to review or withdraw the programme award should any of the following occur:
  - a. The proposed project receiving the funding is changed significantly without the prior written approval of NAC. NAC must be informed in writing of any changes to the proposed project at least seven (7) working days prior to the project’s original execution date.
  - b. Wrong and/or misleading information is provided in the application form, either deliberately or otherwise.

- c. Participation in any Illegal or negligent acts during any point of the programme, which will adversely affect the reputation of NAC, NCW, any government bodies, public institutions, or national leaders.