

APPLICATION GUIDELINES
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL-SANGAM HOUSE RESIDENCY 2026

The National Arts Council is pleased to partner with Sangam House in Bangalore, India, to offer a fully-paid, one-month-long residency for up to two Singapore Tamil writers in 2026.

The final candidates to be selected and funded every year are subject to the merits of the candidates who apply and the competitive assessment criteria as outlined by NAC and Sangam House.

NAC-Sangam House Residency 2026	• For up to two Singapore <u>Tamil</u> writers- one writer each month • One month long, in November 2026 OR December 2026 (i.e. 1st – 28th November, or 2nd – 30th December) • In-person residency located in Bangalore, India, at The Jamun. • Fully paid for (this includes return economy airfare, visa fees, travel insurance, ground transport, residency fee to cover housing and meals, and a per diem to cover incidental expenses not covered by Sangam House)
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1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

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

- Support Singapore emerging literary talent via international partnerships; and
- Enable networking opportunities and cultural exchange with international counterparts, through established writer’s residencies, like Sangam House, which has a significant history of connecting writers from around the globe.

The aim of the NAC-Sangam House Residency is to provide participating writers with the time and space to write, while giving writers a chance to build a solid and influential network of personal and professional relationships that can deepen their own work, and in effect, expand and diversify literature. Their programme also facilitates interaction between the visiting writers and the local arts communities, cultivating an intersection that infuses the local communities with inspiration and new ideas, while allowing each participating writer to deepen their understanding of the diverse emotional and social climates in which literature is conceived and received.

2. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this residency, applicants should:

- a) Be Singapore Citizens or Singapore Permanent Residents who are published writers/translators in Tamil.
- b) Be actively engaged in the literary arts industry.
- c) Be able to converse and write in English, in order to communicate with other residency participants of Sangam House.
- d) Possess a strong track record, strong artistic merit, and commitment towards advancing the art form and contributing to the Singapore arts scene.
- e) Be in the process of creating an original literary work, at any stage of development.
- f) Be comfortable with cross-cultural dynamics and interested in close interaction with writers and artists from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- g) Have the ability and commitment to undertake and complete the programme for its whole duration (i.e. one month for the in-person programme).

3. ASSESSMENT

Applications will be assessed competitively against each other, 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

It is preferred that the applicants should:

- e) Be inclined to learn, explore different perspectives, and share their own knowledge and perspectives on creative writing.
- f) Have works translated into English, if the applicant's works are written in another language (i.e. Tamil).

4. TERMS OF AWARD

The selection process is highly competitive and up to two Singapore Tamil writers will be offered the residency in 2026.

The selected participant will be funded for the following:

- return economy airfare,
- visa fees,
- travel insurance,

- two-way ground transport from the airport to the residency destination,
- residency fee payable to Sangam House, which covers lodging and meals during the residency and,
- a per diem to cover incidental expenses not covered by Sangam House (if needed)
- budget for translation payable to Sangam House, if Sangam House selects the participant's work to be translated into English and published in Sangam House's magazine, *South Parade*

5. CONDITIONS OF AWARD

- An applicant, upon being notified that their application is successful, shall inform NAC of their acceptance within 14 days from the day of the notification, failing which the award will be deemed to have been withdrawn.
- 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.
- To help NAC in the evaluation and management of the programme, the successful applicant should provide NAC with the following within two months upon completion of the residency:
 - Written Evaluation Report detailing:
 - new creative project/s accomplished during the residency;
 - summary of key learning points and residency experiences;
 - visual supporting documents (such as pictures, programme schedule, etc.).
 - Evidence of Work accomplished during the residency period:
 - Copy of writing developed during the residency programme, including draft manuscript/s of new work/s.

These reports and draft manuscripts are for archival purposes only and will not be published and/or circulated publicly.

- NAC also reserves the right to review or withdraw the programme award should any of the following occur:
 - 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.
 - The selected participant is not able to deliver the proposed project.
 - The funding is not used for the purpose for which it was awarded.
 - Wrong and/or misleading information is provided in the application form, either deliberately or otherwise.
 - Participation in any illegal or negligent acts during any point of the programme, which will adversely affect the reputation of NAC, Sangam House, any government bodies, public institutions, or national leaders.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

All applications are to be submitted via [Form SG](#) by **7 August 2026 (Friday), 1700hrs**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. The application must also include the following documents:

- a) A brief (two pages, maximum) curriculum vitae of applicant, focusing on applicant's literary works.
- b) A brief (one page, maximum) sample of the work to be undertaken while at Sangam House.
- c) A Tamil writing sample, of no more than 50 pages. (Please indicate if the work has been published or is unpublished. If it has been published, please provide publication details.)
- d) A statement of purpose, articulating the applicant's interest and objectives for participating in this residency.

Note: Writing samples do **not** have to be in English. Please submit your writing samples in their original language (i.e. Tamil). However, all other documentation must be submitted in English.

For enquiries, please contact Ms Hafizah Beevi at hafizah_beevi@nac.gov.sg.

About [Sangam House](#)

The word *sangam* in Sanskrit literally means “going together.” In most Indian languages, *sangam* has come to mean such confluences as the “flowing together of rivers” and “coincidence.” Likewise, the intention of Sangam House is to bring together writers from around the world to live and work in a safe, peaceful setting. Their residency programme is designed for writers who have published to some acclaim but have not yet enjoyed substantial commercial success.

Sangam also harks back to the great gatherings of poets and writers in the southern cities such as Madurai during the period of classical Tamil literature. These assemblies produced some of the subcontinent’s most exquisite poetry and provided a space for writers of all kinds to talk to each other, over generations and genres. Assembling writers from various cultural backgrounds broadens the scope of each individual’s work. Exposure to regional and national trends in literature, to multiple political and economic obstacles and varied social and cultural milieus, enhances each writer’s understanding of their work, as well as their own notions of identity and home. Sangam House recognises the dearth of such opportunities in South Asia and strives to encourage the work of those writing in all languages, regional and dominant. Such a unique environment enriches the work of its participants and the texture of international literature.

About [The Jamun](#)

The Jamun is a space to leave your mark. This spacious bungalow, set in a quiet, green lane of suburban Bangalore, offers a calm and quiet environment, along with easy access to the city centre. The Jamun hosts a variety of public programmes throughout the year, partnering with some of Bangalore’s best known arts organisations, including Sangam House, an international writer’s residency. Between November and January every year, writers from many different countries, working in numerous languages, live and work in The Jamun’s serene environment. During the residency period, Sangam House and The Jamun co-host public readings by resident writers as a way for them to connect with Bangalore’s literary community. Through its programming, The Jamun aims to be a home for vital conversations about the arts in a changing world. In addition to residencies, they regularly organise free literary talks, plays, music concerts and workshops in a number of artistic disciplines.