



## International Residency Opportunity: Invitation for Writers to Apply

Literature Wales is inviting applications from writers living in EUNIC-member countries for a two-week creative writing residency in Wales between **17 and 31 May 2025**.



This residency will take place at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre in north-west Wales (see map above) and will offer space and time for 14 writers from across Europe to collaborate creatively on writing projects. For this opportunity, we are looking for writers who are interested in themes including ecology, landscape, the climate emergency, society and people. We are also looking for writers who speak and write in a minoritised language or a dialect, or who are interested in the topic of minority languages.

We recognise that the topic of minoritized languages is complex, and is an issue that differs greatly within the political contexts of different countries across Europe. We will invite applicants to explore and describe their relationship with languages in their own words in the application forms. The retreat will particularly celebrate and explore the interconnection between landscape and language. The residency will include a timetable of talks, trips and workshops on the theme.

## Information Pack

Successful writers selected for the opportunity will receive free of charge accommodation and catering on site at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre, and all travel costs will be covered in addition to relevant per diems\*.

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\*Terms and Conditions apply, and green and sustainable travel to and from the centre will be encouraged and supported by the partners.

## Writers' Eligibility Criteria

- Writers must be over the age of 18
- Writers must write in, or be interested in the exploration of, a minoritised language. Different individuals and different countries might have a different interpretation on what minoritised means within their cultural context. One interpretation is that it is a native language that is under threat, but we invite writers to tell us about this in their own words in the application form.
- Writers must be able to converse in basic English. Whilst the retreat will encourage and celebrate several different languages being spoken and woven together during the two weeks, most group activities and group conversations will take place through the medium of English.
- Writers must be available to be resident at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre from 18-31 May 2025.
- This opportunity is for established or mid-career creative writers who practice poetry, prose, or creative non-fiction. It is not an opportunity aimed towards academic writers. We expect the writer to have published a book, or contributed towards an anthology or a publication, or to be an established literary facilitator working in communities on the theme of ecology, landscape, the climate emergency, people or society.

## Outputs

No set outputs will be expected or requested by the end of the residency. The aim is to offer writers the opportunity to write, reflect and build an international creative community. This will hopefully lead to the creation of several radical creative international collaborations in endangered languages and the sharing of solutions and ideas across Europe. Celebratory events offering an opportunity to share creative work and learning will be organised as part of the retreat, possibly at [Hay Festival](#) and/or the [Senedd \(Welsh Parliament\)](#).

## How to Apply

Each EUNIC Member country/region will have their own process to select a writer/writers, or to invite writers to apply, for this opportunity. If this information is not available in this pack, please contact [EUNIC London](#).

Literature Wales is responsible for assessing all applications for this opportunity, and will accept nominations of up to 2 writers from each EUNIC Member to consider for the final selection of 14 writers.

The deadline for EUNIC Members to nominate writers to Literature Wales is **15 November 2024**.

Literature Wales will notify all writers (successful and unsuccessful) of the outcome by 1 February 2025.

## Appendix: Further Information

### Context

Languages reflect the values, traditions, and beliefs of a culture. They are a tool for communication and vehicles for thought, expression, art, and literature. Each one offers a unique perspective on the world and reflects the range of human experience and learning rooted in a particular place. Never has language's connection to landscape been more evident as within the current unfolding context of the climate emergency. If nothing is done, conservative estimates suggest that half of all the 7,000 languages currently spoken will be extinct by the end of the century. With them, the knowledge, culture and crucially, solutions they carry will be lost.

Across the globe, many small linguistic communities have been pushed to coastlines which are now vulnerable to hurricanes and sea level rise. Others live on lands where rising temperatures threaten traditional farming and fishing practices, prompting migration. Alongside this increase in forced migration, the extinction of biodiversity and the erosion of landscapes, also heavily contribute to the impoverishment of vocabulary within communal memory.

Similarly to life forms across the globe however, languages have also learnt to adapt and evolve—sometimes thriving against the odds and in the most unexpected of places. This is cause for celebration and collaboration, as different communities across the globe set out to increase awareness of the interconnection between landscape and language and the challenges and opportunities this poses.

### Further reading:

[European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages](#)

[Lost for words: fears of 'catastrophic' language loss due to rising seas | Climate crisis | The Guardian](#)

[A decade to prevent the disappearance of 3,000 languages – UNESCO-IESALC](#)

### The retreat

With each writer representing a particular culture and their relationship to the language(s) and landscape of their community, we'd be looking to invite established or mid-career writers who have already written on the theme and are in a position to be creative ambassadors for their country/ region. Each of the 14 selected writer's work will explore their culture's unique ties to landscape, ecology and/or society through a range of forms and genres. The residency will explore and celebrate the unique perspective each language offers on the more-than-human world, as well as the overlapping histories, approaches and knowledge found within each country/region. 5 of the writers selected will be Wales-based, with another 9 being selected from EUNIC member countries/regions.

During the residency, a short and focused programme of talks, group workshops and facilitated group discussions will be curated for the participants. These sessions will be led mainly by Wales-based climate specialists and artists who will in their turn share their own research and creative practice. The participants will also be encouraged to explore the local area on organised field trips, learning about the biodiversity of Llŷn and Eifionydd, as well as the social and economic dynamics found in a seaside area with a high percentage of Welsh-speakers. Each of the 14 writers will also be invited to lead a talk, a discussion or a workshop with the group to share the context surrounding the linguistic and ecological landscape of their country/region, as well as presenting their creative work as a way of encouraging exchange, collaboration and partnering.

## Information Pack

The residency will culminate in a sharing event either at Hay Festival 2025 or held at the Senedd (Welsh Parliament) in Cardiff featuring a selection of the writers. That event will be funded by Welsh Government and will be an opportunity to showcase the writers' creative work and reflections, and further amplify the writers' platform and public awareness around the topic. More information about this element will follow soon.

As a way of ensuring legacy to the project, writers taking part will be encouraged to incorporate learning acquired during the residency into their work and share ideas developed during the two weeks within their networks. The residency will be open in form, welcoming writers working across a range of creative genres or disciplines.

### **Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre**

Run by Literature Wales, the national organisation responsible for developing writers in Wales, Tŷ Newydd has run as a Writing Centre since 1990. Every year, courses are run in a variety of genres and on different themes and topics, and tutors at the centre have included world-renowned writers including Gillian Clarke, Carol Ann Duffy, Benjamin Zephaniah, Jackie Kay, and Louis de Bernières.

The house was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Tŷ Newydd was the last home of the former UK Prime Minister David Lloyd George who died at the house in 1954. The centre is located in a rural village – Llanystumdwy - in north-west Wales, between the sea and mountains. 74.4% of the local population in Llanystumdwy speak the Welsh language.

### **Accommodation and Catering**

During the two-week residency, every writer will have their own bedroom on site at Tŷ Newydd Writing Centre. Catering will be provided by the resident chef, who will be able to cater around allergies or dietary requirements.

### **Accessibility**

Tŷ Newydd is a Grade II\* listed building, part of which dates back to the fifteenth century. However, renovations made to the building in 2005 has enabled access to the main areas of the historic house, grounds and outbuildings for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility.

We have one accessible bedroom, suitable for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility, with an accessible wet room next door fitted with a shower, washbasin and W.C. There is a second room, sharing this accessible bathroom, which is also suitable for those with limited mobility, or perfect for any personal assistants who wish to stay with you whilst you're here at Tŷ Newydd. Tŷ Newydd staff will be happy to discuss your access needs on applying for this opportunity: [tynewydd@literaturewales.org](mailto:tynewydd@literaturewales.org)

### **Traveling to/from the centre**

Literature Wales staff, in partnership with EUNIC, will assist all 14 writers with their travel arrangements to, and from the centre. In keeping with the residency's priorities, green and sustainable travel to and from the centre will be encouraged and supported by the partners. Travel costs (second class) will be reimbursed, or paid for by the organisers on the writers' behalf.

### **Further questions**

If you need any further information about this opportunity, please contact [tynewydd@literaturewales.org](mailto:tynewydd@literaturewales.org) with EUNIC in the subject title.