

Role Description: Citizen Programme Schools Writer in Residence

Contract

January 2020 until September 2020 in first instance, when the post will be reviewed.
Equivalent of 2 days per week (14 hours) during school term time.

Fee

£6,000 plus expenses, inclusive of prep and writing time.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is seeking to appoint a Writer in Residence to work in school settings as part of Citizen, our long-term project at the core of the Book Festival's year-round programme, On the Road.

Citizen is a three-year creative programme which aims to explore the diversity of stories and voices in Edinburgh and its surrounding areas. Beyond the August Festivals, outside the city centre, what do the voices of this city have to say? And can their tales inform our understanding of community in a world where the boundaries between us and our neighbours -local, national, global -are dramatically shifting.

In this second year of the project, the Schools Writer in Residence will work in Musselburgh and its environs, engaging with local schools in diverse ways to learn what stories they have to tell, what ideas of place and neighbourhood they may have, and to support them to share these stories and ideas as they choose.

Our main community partner for the project's second phase will be The Brunton Theatre in Musselburgh, where our Community Writer in Residence (already in post) will also be based, with this Schools Writer in Residence role working primarily with a selection of local schools, liaising with the Brunton Theatre when required.

At the Book Festival, 'writer' encapsulates a diverse range of creative literary outputs: novelist, poet, non-fiction writer, illustrator, comic creator, spoken word artist etc, and producing work for all ages of audiences and readers.

What is Edinburgh International Book Festival On the Road?

The Edinburgh International Book Festival On the Road brings together the very best from groups and organisations across the country with the energy and excitement of the August Book Festival. Produced in collaboration with a variety of partners, this programme of residencies, festivals and one-off events brings authors, artists and audiences together to inspire each other and to be inspired, to share stories and experiences, and bring books to life for people of all ages in their own communities.

A key aspect of our work On the Road is its synergetic relation to the August Book Festival's own programme. As such the creative work developed in this project takes inspiration from and ultimately informs the Edinburgh International Book Festival's August programme in its local and international celebration of books, words and ideas.

To learn more about our work On the Road, including updates from the first year of Citizen, visit our blog: <https://ontheroad.edbookfest.co.uk>

The Role

We are seeking writers who have experience of working within school settings, who relish working with people from varied backgrounds, and who have the ability to work in a creative and responsive way to ideas from the Book Festival, participants and key partners. This will involve supporting the emerging shape and content of the programme, as well as working with other writers and artists who will be supporting elements of the project at various points.

Whilst creative writing and engagement with literature in all its forms is the backbone of this work writers must be open to - and perhaps experienced in - embedding other creative mediums within the project, such as music, film, photography etc.

The legacy of this project is vital to its success. As the work progresses, we will explore the most appropriate means of producing and disseminating the project's creative output beyond festival events to ensure continued reach and impact.

The role is initially contracted for a fixed-term but with the potential for renewal into the third phase of the project.

You will work with a cohort of Primary Schools pupils - most likely P6/P7 - responding to the themes and ideas being explored through Citizen. The form and duration of the engagement will be decided in collaboration with the schools in each case.

You will collaborate with all parties to devise the most appropriate form of showcasing the creative work, both within the schools and the Brunton Theatre, then subsequently at the 2020 Edinburgh International Book Festival in August.

In May 2020, an informal workshop weekend at the Brunton Theatre will present work in progress and bring in relevant authors and artists to inspire the schools and communities.

Key responsibilities

- To enable the participating groups to have their voices heard and their creative work to be nurtured and valued throughout the project;
- To plan and deliver project activities in a timely and professional manner, in cooperation with partners and participants as required;
- To collaborate closely with the Book Festival, partner organisations, participants and supporting authors and artists to evolve the content and public manifestation of the project;
- To suggest possible additional artists or artistic elements to support the emerging ideas across the project as a whole, and to contribute ideas for events during each public staging of the project;
- To participate in marketing and publicity activity as required;
- To work with The Book Festival's marketing team and others to find ways to creatively tell the ongoing story of the project and its participants;
- To write pieces and create resources for the Book Festival's On The Road blog and Learning Site on regular/termly basis;
- To participate in the project's evaluation process, and to provide regular feedback to the Book Festival and its partners.

Person Specification

Essential

- Experience of working with school groups to develop creative writing, creative thinking and to encourage self-expression;
- Experience of working with groups of mixed abilities, perspectives and ages;
- Experience of working closely and collaboratively with other authors or artists;
- Open and flexible attitude to evolving projects and responding to varied stakeholders;
- Excellent communicator who can work with and represent the project to various stakeholders;
- A creative thinker who can provide support in troubleshooting and creative problem-solving;
- Commitment to equal opportunities and social inclusion; tolerance and respect of difference;
- Generosity of spirit and a willingness to learn from others;
- The post-holder must be a full member of Disclosure Scotland's Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. The Book Festival can support the successful candidate with this process if they are yet to become a member.

Desirable

- Experience of working across different literary genres e.g. poetry, short fiction;

- Experience of collaborating;
- Experience/appreciation of cultural programming across different art-forms.

Applicants from diverse backgrounds are very much encouraged to apply.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival is an equal opportunities employer, an Investor in People and a Real Living Wage employer.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit the following to jobs@edbookfest.co.uk:

- CV
- 2 examples of your creative writing /or 2 examples of recent projects or productions.
- Cover letter outlining how you meet the person specification and including a 250 word proposal on how you would approach the brief.

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday 8 November

Interviews will be held week commencing: Monday 11 November

If you have any questions about the role not answered by the above, please contact Roland Gulliver on jobs@edbookfest.co.uk or call the Book Festival on 0131 718 5666.