

SUMMER SCHOOL SHORT COURSE DETAILS

SSS08059 SHORT STORY WRITING

Tutor: RUTH BRANDT

Dates: 6 DAYS SATURDAY 11 AUGUST – FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

ABOUT YOUR COURSE:

On this course you will gain a better understanding of the elements which make up a compelling short story. These include character, plot, setting, dialogue, conflict, and dramatic structure, along with other aspects of story writing. Through written exercises you will explore each of these areas and discover how they can be used to start a new short story, to improve an existing short story, or to provide the springboards from which a number of short stories can be written.

Working in a supportive, encouraging environment you will give and receive feedback on each other's work. A one-to-one meeting with your tutor will give you the opportunity to get feedback on a piece of writing of up to 1,700 words (can be an excerpt). There will be plenty of time for independent writing in and around the inspirational College and gardens.

Whether you're planning to write literary short stories, flash fiction, commercial magazine short stories, or simply don't know, the focus will always be on making your story the best it can be. Guidance will be given as to the potential markets for your stories and the process of submitting work for publication will be discussed.

By the end of the week you will have completed at least one short story. You will have developed an understanding of the interaction of character, plot and story; of the importance of dialogue for creating engaging characters; and how stories are structured. You will leave with increased writing skills, new ideas for short stories and with the confidence to write them.

LEVEL: SUITABLE FOR ALL

A subject focused course that is delivered to suit any level of experience from beginner to advanced practitioner. A structured start is followed by guided independent practice.

ABOUT YOUR TUTOR:

Ruth Brandt's short stories have been published in anthologies and magazines, including *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual*, *Bristol Short Story Prize* and *Litro*, and nominated for the *Pushcart Prize*. She has an MFA (Distinction) Creative Writing, Kingston University, won the MFA Creative Writing Prize 2017 and tutors for Surrey Adult Learning.

GENERAL TIMETABLE:

Please note: a detailed timetable covering all additional events and activities planned for your summer school week will be given to you on arrival.

Arrival day: Saturday 11 August

By 12.00 noon	Arrival and registration for summer school students (Please note: some bedrooms may not be available until 1pm)
12.15pm	Director's Welcome in the Stewards Bar, followed by lunch
2.00pm – 5.00pm	First teaching session
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–9.15pm	Tutors' talks in the Old Library

Other days: Sunday 12 to Thursday 16 August

9.15am	Morning classes start
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Morning classes continue
12.45pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Afternoon classes (except Wednesday afternoon which is untutored and free for excursions to Chichester, from 2–5pm)
3.30pm	Tea
4.00pm	Afternoon classes continue
5.00pm	Classes finish
From 6.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm–10.00pm	Evening working or additional timetabled summer school events Workshops are available up to 10pm for those wishing to work on providing this has been agreed with the tutor. These sessions are untutored.

Departure day: Friday 17 August

(Residential students to vacate rooms by 10am)

9.15am	Final teaching session
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Individual group reviews
12.45pm	Lunch
1.30pm–2.30pm	Displays of Summer School students' work in studios
3.00pm	Summer School ends
3.30pm	Tea then departure

REQUIRED PREPARATION:

No preparation necessary. However, you are welcome to bring along a short story you are working on and present excerpts for feedback during the workshops sessions and your one-to-one.

MATERIALS FOR YOUR COURSE:

We have a generously stocked craft shop, which opens daily from 8.30am–2pm. On the first and last days (ie Saturday and Friday) of your Summer School week the shop will be open until 4.30pm.

Materials included in the course fee:

None.

Available from the Shop:

Pen/Pencil
Notebook

Please bring any of the above, if you have them, and in addition:

If you use a laptop, you're welcome to bring this.

HEALTH AND SAFETY:

The tutor instructs students in health and safety issues relevant to this course. There are no health and safety restrictions on access to this studio/teaching space in the absence of the tutor. All Personal Protection Equipment, apart from footwear, is provided by the College.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE VISUAL ART & CRAFT SUMMER SCHOOL

Attending an intensive Summer School course allows you to experience a range of creative activities alongside your course. Special Summer School features:

- Inspirational talks by tutors and displays of their work.
- A swap-over session to another course of your choice.

- An optional evening at the Chichester Festival Theatre (pre-booked at a group rate, via a form we send you in May).
- A free afternoon on Wednesday to explore Chichester or other cultural highlights on offer in the locality.
- A special party with dinner, entertainment and music.
- Workshop displays of students' work and informal end-of-course group reviews.
- If your stay includes the weekend of 10–12 August, enjoy West Dean's Chilli Fiesta in the gardens in your free time and add a little 'spice' to your stay with all things chilli and live music from midday until 11pm on the front lawn.

NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS are expected to attend evening sessions (which may last up to 10 pm), so their fees include coffee, lunch and dinner daily.

RESIDENT STUDENTS: Residents staying on for more than one Summer School week will have the additional dinner, bed and breakfast between the Summer School courses provided free of charge.

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