

Arabic Translation Mentoring Programme

New Writing North are delighted to open applications for a new Arabic Translation Mentoring Programme. We are grateful to the British Council for their funding support of this opportunity.

The programme will support four emerging translators who are serious about developing their translation skills and professional knowledge. Two mentees will be working in English>Arabic translators and two mentees will be working in Arabic>English.

Please note that at least two mentee places and two mentor places on this programme are reserved for translators based in countries receiving Official Development Assistance (ODA) whose first language is not English. We are therefore especially welcoming of applications from translators based in ODA recipient countries. Please see 'What is an ODA Recipient Country' below for more information.

The programme begins in March 2021 and will complete in November 2021, with development activities spread evenly during that time. All elements of the programme will be delivered virtually.

Each mentee translator will receive:

- An initial consultation to support them to define their goals for the programme.
- Four mentoring meetings with an experienced translator mentor.
- Two writer-mentor-mentee meetings which will add the author perspective to the translation process.
- Participation in peer-support forums with the other mentees and mentors.
- Access to two professional development sessions, featuring expert guest speakers, one delivered in English and one in Arabic.
- A bursary of £1300 to support them to complete the programme.

Eligibility

To be eligible you must:

- Be an emerging translator working in either Arabic>English or English>Arabic.
- Have a developing track record of published translations; experience may include shorter work in anthologies and journals, as well as full-length works.
- Demonstrate a focus on literary translation, which may include experience

translating poetry, novels, short stories or memoir.

- Show an awareness of how the specific elements of this particular programme will heighten your translation skills and deepen your professional knowledge.

Application process

The application window opens on 28 January 2021 and closes on 11 February 2021 at 12noon (GMT).

Applicants should answer the application questions, provide an up-to-date CV and an extract of a recent translation (up to 1000 words).

[All applications should be made via Submittable at this link.](#)

For any questions and further information, please contact Will Mackie, Senior Programme Manager, at will@newwritingnorth.com

Mentors

Mentor translators will be appointed to the programme when the mentee writers are in place. Experienced translators who would like to be considered as mentors for the programme are welcome to send a short email and CV to will@newwritingnorth.com We are especially interested in recruiting experienced translator mentors from ODA countries.

What is an ODA recipient country?

[Official Development Assistance](#) (ODA) is the UK government's overseas aid budget to support the government's 2015 Aid Strategy in developing countries. The Arabic Translation Mentoring Programme is classified as Official Development Assistance. ODA is a term coined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to measure aid.

A full list of ODA recipient countries is available [here](#).

Programme Background

The objectives of this programme are to:

- contribute to the development of translation and professional skills of a group of translators through long-term collaborative mentoring
- enhance awareness of nuanced aspects of translation directly related to the selected translators

- open up new professional networks for translators that will support them in their career planning
- further solidify links between translators, publishers, writer and other professionals.

The project forms a legacy to the Tarjem: Arabic<>English Translation Workshop developed and delivered in partnership with the British Council, Sharjah World Book Capital and Kalimat Group, which took place in Sharjah in February 2020.

Tarjem identified that participants would:

- benefit from greater collaboration
- respond positively to further opportunities to exchange experiences connected to their practice
- benefit from continued networking opportunities and professional development
- welcome the involvement of writers in similar development opportunities.

Each translator will work alongside an experienced translator mentor, collaborate with a writer, become part of a peer network and attend professional development and the sharing of practice.