

NEW WRITING NORTH

New Writing North launches online learning platform for new and aspiring writers

Bursary places for North of Tyne residents

New Writing North has led writing development in the North of England since 1996. Today, the organisation begins a new chapter as it launches a major online learning platform for new and aspiring writers, aimed at empowering and upskilling the next generation of northern writers.

The New Writing North Academy has been created in partnership with the Professional Writing Academy, the industry-leading online course provider whose digital campus is the first platform specifically designed for teaching writing.

Courses start in March 2023 and enrolment is now open for courses including [life writing](#) with Richard Benson, [crime fiction](#) with Marnie Riches and [short stories](#) with Susmita Bhattacharya, as well as CPD-accredited courses in [screenwriting](#) with John Yorke and [writing for work](#) with Piers Alder.

The courses will be taught in small groups over 4 to 16 weeks, each led by an expert tutor. Through a mixture of independent work and workshop learning, students will explore the techniques used by leading contemporary writers, learn to feedback on work-in-progress, develop their own voice and hone their writing craft. The versatility of online learning means that courses can be accessed from anywhere and participants can engage at a convenient time to suit themselves.

Previous attendees on Professional Writing Academy courses have gone on to establish writing careers as bestselling novelists and screenwriters for Channel 4, BBC, and ITV, as well as succeeding in copywriting and academic writing.

The New Writing North Academy is part of a wider Writing and Publishing Skills Hub, funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority. Residents of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland can benefit from bursaries of up to 75% off course prices.

Claire Malcolm, Chief Executive of New Writing North said: ‘We’re thrilled to be working with the Professional Writing Academy to bring brilliant, accessible creative writing courses to the North. For too long, it has been difficult for many people to access the highest quality of creative writing teaching, whether they live outside of urban centres, have disabilities, caring responsibilities, or simply busy lives. On New Writing North Academy courses, our students will benefit from one-to-one feedback; small group peer support; a wider network of northern writers; and a lively international community, all while accessing material and completing assignments at a time that suits them.

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We're grateful to North of Tyne Combined Authority, whose funding allows us to offer discounted bursary places to those living in Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland.'

Christina Bunce, Founding Director, Professional Writing Academy, said:

'After 10 years teaching more than 10,000 writers at all stages of development, we are well aware of the power of writing to transform lives for the better - for personal development, to equip people with new skills for work, and for the sheer joy of being creative.

We are also aware of the barriers for many people who are ready to take their writing to the next stage but can't afford to take time out to study an MA, or otherwise need flexibility.

We are committed to discovering and developing new voices and talent from the North and are delighted to be working with New Writing North and the North of Tyne Combined Authority, who have the vision to see that offering flexible, accessible online learning will give opportunities to anyone wanting to explore their creative side.'

Cllr Glen Sanderson NTCA cabinet member for Culture, Creative and Rural said: 'We want everyone in the North of Tyne region to be able to pursue their creative ambitions through access to the highest quality of learning opportunities and vocational skills development. That's why we're delighted to support New Writing North's writing and publishing hub, and within it the New Writing North Academy with bursary places for North of Tyne residents. It's particularly exciting that this online learning platform allows people across our region to develop their writing skills in a flexible way that fits in with their lives.'

Richard Benson, author of *The Farm* and *The Valley*, and course tutor for *Stories from Life*, said: 'It's no one person's fault, but the fact is that our society still gives far more access to certain groups of people than others. This is wrong because it's unfair, but it's also wrong because it means some people feel their stories are not worth hearing. In fact, many of their stories are more interesting than those we do get to hear. Change must happen. Ordinary people's voices must be heard. In *Getting Started; Stories from Life*, we will be exploring our own life stories, allowing people to experience the events, places, and communities that are important to us.'

Denise Johnson, course alumni said: 'I'm not sure what I will do when this course is over. All day at my desk I think of the moment when I can rush home and login and start to write. At the beginning of the new sessions, I am beyond excited.'

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Booking is now open for New Writing North Academy at <https://newwritingnorth.com/academy/>

Notes to Editor

For all media enquiries, please contact Laura Fraine at New Writing North
laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com

Find the full list of courses here <https://newwritingnorth.com/academy/>

The following courses are now available:

Story for Screenwriting: Advanced Structure

Develop an industry-standard treatment for your original TV, film, or stage drama
Our professional development course is based on the techniques BAFTA-winning storyteller John Yorke developed to train new writing talent on the [BBC Writers' Academy](#) scheme. Our alumni work on award-winning shows, including Emmys, Oscars, and BAFTAs.

Duration: 16 weeks

Price: £900

Bursary places for North of Tyne residents: £225

More information and booking: <https://newwritingnorth.com/event/story-for-screenwriting/>

Writing Crime Fiction

Commit to writing the perfect crime

Whether you're new to crime writing or ready to kickstart your next whodunnit, this four-week online course will equip you with the tools you need to create convincing characters and write the perfect crime. You'll work in a small group of dedicated writers with an expert tutor and guest appearances from acclaimed crime writers.

Duration: 5 weeks

Price: £495

Bursary price for North of Tyne residents: £198

<https://newwritingnorth.com/event/writing-crime-fiction/>

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Stories from Life

Write your own life story with Richard Benson

Are you new to writing and want to share a powerful story that allows people to experience the events, places, and communities that mean something to you? Founded on the belief that everyone has a story to tell, this four-week course offers an accessible entry point into writing, helping to boost your confidence and guide you as you complete a story from scratch.

Duration: 4 weeks

Price: £495

Bursary price for North of Tyne residents: £198

<https://newwritingnorth.com/event/stories-from-life/>

Write and Submit a Short Story

A practical course for short story writers

This course guides writers from initial ideas for a short story through drafting and finessing to the submissions process for competitions and journals. We'll start by working on inspiration and ways to tune yourself into the small details that bring a story idea to life. Then, we'll look at how to tell a story at sentence level and thematically, cover all the nuts and bolts from viewpoint, character, using dialogue and body language to transition between story stages.

Duration: 7 weeks

Price: £750

Bursary price for North of Tyne residents: £300

<https://newwritingnorth.com/event/write-and-submit-a-short-story/>

Write Better at Work

Sharpen your writing skills and get your point across

Writing is an important part of your job, but how do you do it well? This four week, online professional development training, brought to you by experts in writing for business, will give you the tools to communicate clearly and persuasively, and the confidence to make people listen. As this course is CPD (Continuing Professional Development) accredited, you can book a place as an individual, or block-book a class for your team.

Duration: 4 weeks

Price: £495

Bursary price for North of Tyne residents: £198

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AUTHORITY**

  
**PROFESSIONAL  
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<https://newwritingnorth.com/event/write-better-at-work/>

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