

‘Stories of Resilience’ – Further information for applicants

Criteria for the writer in residence

- Must be able to demonstrate that they are the author of at least two published pieces of work. These can be full-length books or contributions to anthologies, online magazines, newspapers, etc.
- Must currently be a resident of Ukraine.
- Must be a minimum age of 18 years on 1 March 2024.
- Must be able and available to carry out a period of research and development in Ukraine between 1 March and 31 May 2024.
- Must be able and available to undertake an in-person residency in London, UK, over a continuous 30-day period between 1 June and 30 July 2024. This includes having an applicable valid visa and passport or the ability to apply for and receive one within the time frame necessary to travel to the UK for the start of the residency. English PEN is able to support the cost of applying for a visa.
- Must be able to speak and comprehend English at a minimum of B2 Upper Intermediate level ([further information here](#)). Please note, the commission to be produced at the end of the residency does not need to be written in English as we can arrange for it to be translated.
- Access to the resources required to undertake the research and development (eg a computer, internet access etc.)
- We are not able to accommodate dependents during the residency in London. If you have any dependents, you will need to arrange the necessary support/care for them should your application be successful.

What we will provide

- 3 online consultations with the *Guardian*'s chief culture writer, Charlotte Higgins during the research and development period.
- 2 in-person consultations with a UK-based mentor from a relevant creative background (e.g., a poet, a journalist, a creative non-fiction writer) during the residency.
- Accommodation in London.
- Per diem at £43/day for 30 days.
- Cover of travel costs within London of up to £300 over 30 days.
- London Library membership for period of residency.
- Support and availability throughout the project period from English PEN and PEN Ukraine.
- Invitation to events organised by English PEN and our partners during residency period.
- Where appropriate, support with setting up meetings with relevant people from our network.

Brief for research and development (R&D) and commission

We are looking to work with a writer currently resident in Ukraine, to produce a text-based piece that creatively documents and celebrates stories of individuals and communities using the written or spoken word as a form of resilience and resistance in the face of Russian invasion.

The successful applicant will be expected to first undertake a three-month period of research and development in Ukraine, collating the stories of people from different regions using

creative practices involving the written or spoken word as a form of free expression, resilience, or cultural preservation. This could include, but is not limited to, novelists, poets, playwrights, journalists, academics, translators, musicians, bloggers, librarians, activists, or people engaging members of their community in activities involving the written or spoken word. We are particularly interested in the stories of those working to protect the use of and accessibility to the Ukrainian language. Those interviewed do not need to be professional or published writers; we are keen to see a diversity of stories and voices, including those of organisations or individuals running grassroots or community projects aimed at uniting communities, supporting people's mental health etc. These conversations will be facilitated through in-person or virtual interviews (e.g., via video call or telephone).

The R&D will be supported by three online consultations with the *Guardian's* chief culture writer, Charlotte Higgins.

During a month-long residency in London, the successful applicant will use the material gathered across Ukraine to create a text-based piece to be shared in Ukraine and the UK.

We welcome applications from writers using a variety of forms and practices. Please make clear in your application what form your final piece would take: for example, it could be a collection of poems, a creative non-fiction prose piece, a journalistic account with verbatim interviews etc.

The end piece will meaningfully and creatively highlight both the stories of specific individuals and communities across Ukraine, but also the wider phenomenon of using art and culture as a means of personal and collective resilience and resistance. Our hope is that it will give an insight into the varied and nuanced lives that make up life in Ukraine at this moment in time.