**Arvon course 2019 available for Hive bursary support**

*(Subject to availably)*

Arvon is a national creative writing charity that produces residential and city-based creative writing courses and retreats for schools, groups and individuals. Founded in 1968, many of the UK’s most prominent writers have taught on Arvon courses, including many acclaimed writers such as Carol Ann Duffy, Malorie Blackman and Simon Armitage.

Arvon have three writing centres in Devon, Shropshire and Yorkshire offering inspiring and transformative residential courses and retreats in beautiful surroundings led by highly acclaimed writers, spanning poetry to playwriting, song to screenplay, fact to fiction – from courses aimed at fledgling writers to the more advanced, and retreats offering focused time to write and finish manuscripts. [www.arvon.org](http://www.arvon.org/)

**Courses APRIL 2019**

**FICTION Technique and tenacity: a good first draft and beyond – 22–27 April, The Hurst**

A structured, focused course that will propel you onwards with your writing project. We will help turn several sparks into a substantial fire by delving deeply into character creation, plotting, point of view, editing and improving. With plenty of time to write, you will leave surprised at the progress you have made.

**WRITERS: Jenn Ashworth | Adam Foulds | Guest: Tor Udall**  
[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/fiction-6/)  
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**POETRY: Seeing your poetry in the round – April 22nd-27th, Lumb Bank**

This course will explore how your poetry fits into your life.  Morning workshops will help you to develop better critical perspectives on your writing, with stimulating exercises to generate new poems and hone your craft.  We will also look at the contemporary poetry scene, and explore new directions you might consider. Each afternoon you’ll have time to work on your poems, inspired by the beautiful Pennine landscape, and we’ll be on hand to give you one-to-one support on your writing.

Whoever you are and whatever stage you’re at in your writing life, join us for a serious but hugely enjoyable week immersed in poetry.

**WRITERS: Ian Duhig| Catherine Smith | Guest: Zaffar Kunial**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/poetry-7/)

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**Courses MAY 2019**

**FICTION: Finding your way through the woods – 6–11 May, The Hurst**

Writing fiction is always a journey of exploration. This week is designed to give you the essential tools and techniques to help you on your way. We will discuss the main elements of fiction in a series of workshops, from character and theme to setting and narrative; examine the variety of fiction sub-genres and their commercial considerations; and you will receive one-to-one guidance from each of the tutors.

**WRITER: Andrew Taylor | Claire Fuller | Guest: David Hayden**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/fiction-3/)

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**POETRY: Celebrating Curitiy, Monday May 6th – 11th, Totleigh Barton**

Curiosity may have killed the cat but it is a vital character trait of writers. So how do you take that inquisitiveness and turn it into art? When do you let your imagination run away with you, and at what point do you think about form? Open to all levels of experience, this week will celebrate and stretch a wide range of poetic forms, with a particular focus on looking at international genres, to help you explore ways to bring your unique poetic voice to the page. Come with an open mind, plenty of blank pages and a willingness to go beyond your current practice.

**WRITERS: W.N Herbert | Fiona Sampson | Guest: Ruth Stacey**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/fiction-3/)

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**PLAYWRITING: Finding a new language for your ideas – 13th - May 18th, Totleigh Barton**

There isn’t a single language for theatre. Whether a conventional play, a text for a dance piece, or a set of instructions for an audience experience with no performers present, each form offers a unique relationship between the text, the people present, and the question at the heart of it. This course will focus on creating new material, but will also provide a chance to look at your current work and ideas in a new light, and perhaps find a language for it you hadn’t thought of using before.

**WRITER: Chris Thorpe| Ku Kemp | Guest: Charlene James**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/playwriting-course-may/)

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**POPULAR NON-FICTION: From imagination to industry – May 27th - June 1st, Lumb Bank**

Great storytelling isn’t confined to the world of fiction. Whether you’re writing from real life, a how-to guide or a collection of your research, readers are looking for a page-turning read. But how best to combine hard facts with solid storytelling that will hook the reader from the get-go? How do you tackle writing about real-life characters, or use dialogue effectively? How much of your hard-earned research do you include – and which bits do you leave out? With both editorial and authorial input from us as tutors, by the end of this week you’ll have shaped a proposal, explored your storytelling world, and picked up plenty of industry secrets.

**WRITERS: Lois Pryce | Emily Roberson | Guest: Stuart Maconie**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/popular-non-fiction/)

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**POETRY Words as pictures and film – 27 May–1 June, The Hurst**

In poetry, words are both things in themselves and the triggers that conjure the images and sequences that lie at the core. This course will concentrate on the power of such images in both shorter and longer forms. We will think about street photography and film clips that become a narrative without completely filling out a story, but also about poetic forms, both set and discovered, where such images can prosper. People might bring along examples of street photography snipped from newspaper and magazines but we will not be dependent on these.

**WRITERS: George Szirtes | Clare Shaw | Guest: Sophie Collins**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/poetry-writing-course/)

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**Courses JUNE 2019**

**FICTION: WORK-IN-PROGRESS, Developing your narrative craft – June 17th - 22nd, Totleigh Barton**

How do you write, develop and revise compelling works of fiction? How do successful writers exploit narrative structure, setting and character to create work that shines? This course is for those who have already started a work of fiction, be it long or short. Participants are invited to submit up to 1,500 words of a work-in-progress, to be sent to totleighbarton@arvon.org by 17 May 2019.

**WRITERS: Jacob Ross | Claire Fisher | Guest: Patrick Gale**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/fiction-work-in-progress-4/)

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**POETRY Translate your thoughts through language, sound and visuals – 3–8 June, Totleigh Barton**

This is a practical adventure in ‘intersemiotic translation’. You will explore techniques for harnessing your imagination and transforming your poetic ideas through different modes to create interwoven, possibly multimedia work. Creative prompts will come from a range of writers and artists, including Bosch, Lorca, and Han Kang. Participants will add to this, finding and sharing sources they find evocative. Together we will create a shared bank of images. In the vivid and historical setting of Totleigh Barton, you will explore site-specific and take-away techniques to produce material for your own set of poetic creations by the end of the course.

**WRITERS: Vahni Capildeo | Kei Miller | Guest: Jay Bernard**   
[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/poetry-10/)

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**Courses JUNE- INTO AUGUST 2019**

**STARTING TO WRITE FICTION: Secrets and lies: exploring the imagination – 8–13 July, The Hurst**

The engine of fiction is a combination of carefully constructed lies that unfold like secrets and set off the imagination in both writer and reader. You will explore the many possibilities of fiction, free up your imagination and create structures for your work of fiction. In a supportive and enthusiastic atmosphere you will find your voice and a passion for further writing. This week is suitable for beginners and those who wish to refocus and find new inspiration for their work.

**WRITERS: Jo Mazelis | Wyl Menmuir | Guest: Carys Bray**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/starting-to-write-5/)

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**FICTION Fuel for the fire – 29 July–3 August, Lumb Bank**

How can we, as writers, transcend our initial influences while still harnessing the thrill that first inspired us? In this course, we will investigate how we can use our reading life as fuel for writing. We’ll look at style, technique, tone and content in existing texts and explore various ways we can absorb the influences that excite us and still arrive at our own unique writing voice. You’ll come away having developed your individual craft and eager to carry on writing.

**WRITERS: Diane Setterfield | Russ Litten | Guest: Libby Page**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/fiction-8/)

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**POETRY How to make opposites attract within our poems – 29 July–3 August, The Hurst**

For poets who feel they’ve perhaps become ‘stuck’ in one mode of writing, or in one particular subject in their poems, this course will look at how the tension caused between differing subject matters can bring a poem alive. What does it mean for a poem to combine the natural with the unnatural, the urban and the pastoral, the bodily and the intellectual, the emotional and the detached, the human and the animal? Throughout the course you will be encouraged to let your imagination fly and to write as boldy, colourfully and deeply as you dare.

**WRITERS: Pascale Petit | Andrew McMillan | Guest: Malika Booker**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/poetry-11/)

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**Courses AUGUST – INTO SEPT 2019**

**NON-FICTION: WORK-IN-PROGRESS, Finding and shaping the story – August 5th - 10th, Lumb Bank**

The residues of real life – your own or someone else’s – rarely assemble neatly into ready-made stories. Different non-fiction genres can help identify that vital narrative thread, from family history to biography to travel writing. Maybe the project is also shaped by argument or an idea. Whatever you want to write, we’ll look at various ways of seducing readers while respecting non-fiction truth. Participants are invited to submit up to 2,000 words of a work-in-progress, plus a short summary of the whole piece, to lumbbank@arvon.org by 22 July 2019. Please note that this is optional.

**WRITERS: Richard Beard | Sarah Churchwell | Guest: Wendy Moore**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/non-fiction-work-in-progress-2/)

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**POETRY Grand designs – 26–31 August, The Hurst**

What’s new in poetic form? Whether reinventions of the traditional or innovations driven by the times, we’ll be testing the structural aspects of contemporary poems and trying fresh approaches for ourselves. Does the content guide the form or vice versa? You’ll be encouraged to examine your own formal practice and to strike out in new directions, with a focus on critiquing your own poems and generating new drafts through innovative writing exercises.

**WRITER: Luke Kennard | Colette Bryce | Guest: Jacqueline Saphra**

[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/poetry-6/)

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**PLAYWRITING: TUTORED RETREAT Actors and audience – writing for a live medium – September 2nd - 7th, Lumb Bank**

A unique opportunity to engage in robust and rigorous discourse about a range of elements, in terms of creating writing that is truly dramatic, theatrical, active and alive. The aim of this course is to provide each participant with the tools to test, interrogate and hone their craft. This will include scrutiny of dramatic action, the role of the audience, point of entry, point of view, genre and style, the world on stage and the world of the play.

**WRITERS: Ola Animashawun | Jessica Swale | Guest: Polly Stenham**[More information](https://www.arvon.org/writing-courses/courses-retreats/playwriting-tutored-retreat/)

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With kind support from [Arvon](http://www.arvon.org/)