



The London Book Fair Sharjah Market Focus 2020

Opportunity to host a residency with an Emirati writer

The British Council is offering a grant to enable a UK literature festival, organisation or university to host writer in residence from the United Arab Emirates (specifically a writer or book illustrator/graphic novelist) in 2019-20. Through the residency we seek to:

- Develop audiences for literature from UAE in the UK
- Offer an opportunity for the international career development of an Emirati writer

Context

The British Council is working with the Sharjah Book Authority to present Sharjah as the Market Focus Country at The London Book Fair in March 2020. This is the thirteenth year that the British Council has partnered with London Book Fair on this programme which has done much to open doors, creating both commercial and cultural partnerships around the world since it was first introduced in 2004. The objective of the Market Focus Cultural Programme is to promote cultural links between the UK and the country of focus. The residency project is bilateral, so the Sharjah Book Authority will also host a UK writer during the time period October 2019 – March 2020.

The opportunity

We are offering a grant of £4500 to UK literature festivals, organisations and universities to host a writer, or book illustrator or graphic novelist from the United Arab Emirates in 2019-20.

The British Council literature team can work closely with you to provide advice on different aspects of international working with the UAE, such as the visa process, issuing invitations, working with translation etc. Flight bookings, visas and accommodation should all be arranged by the residency host.

The participating writer from the UAE will be selected in consultation with the Sharjah Book Authority, British Council UAE and the successful residency hosting partner to ensure the writer is well-matched to the opportunity. This may be by open call or via direct invitation.

Letters of application should be emailed to the British Council Literature team (Harriet.Williams@britishcouncil.org) by midnight on 31 August 2019, and address the following points:

1. The **creative programme** you intend to offer the international resident. This includes a profile of the type of resident you'd like to host, an idea of what they might do, who they might meet, whether you expect them to produce any creative work, how you will engage your audiences and ideas for additional partners you might involve. Please include any suggestions of writers if you have them.



2. The **logistical programme** (how will you manage the residency including the selection, communication and briefing, the practicalities of hosting, translation, fees, accommodation). Please also specify when you would be available to host the visiting writer.

3. **Why you are applying for this opportunity** and **what impact** do you expect the international residency to have on your work in both the long and short term?

4. **What experience do you have in working with international writers** or literature in translation (if any), and why do you seek to develop this part of your work?

5. A **budget** proposal specifying airfare, accommodation, per diems, honorarium/fee, local travel and any hosting/event costs.

Grants will be awarded based on responses to the above and greatest potential impact for developing lasting connections between the UK and UAE literary sectors.

Activity should take place **between October 2019 – February 2020**. You will be asked to evaluate the activity against your proposal above and submit as a written report to the British Council within six weeks of completion.

We welcome any questions about this programme before the deadline of midnight on 31 August 2019. Please write in to Harriet.Williams@britishcouncil.org and we will respond as soon as possible.

About the partners

Sharjah Book Authority

Sharjah Book Authority (SBA) was launched in 2014, by Emiri decree by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, UAE Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah. SBA's mandate includes enhancing investment in creative industries, building a platform for culture and knowledge exchange between people of the world, highlighting the importance of books in today's multimedia world, and supporting the children's book industry.

The SBA has jurisdiction over a number of important cultural projects in the UAE including Sharjah Book City, the very first publishing free zone in the Arab World. The authority's jurisdiction also covers public libraries in Sharjah; Sharjah International Book Fair, the fourth largest book fair in the world; Sharjah Children's Reading Festival, Sharjah Exhibition for Children Books' Illustrations and Sharjah International Book Fair Translation Grant, part of the Sharjah Publishers Conference. Sharjah Book Authority also organises, with New York University, the first free training program for publishers in the Arab World, as well as an annual joint conference with the American Library Association.



The Authority is also tasked with collecting historic documents and artefacts from the UAE, the Arab World, and beyond, in order to preserve them using the latest, state-of-art techniques and methods. Furthermore, the SBA also collects, organizes and archives databases on publishing, printing, translations, libraries, and other publishing-related activities, as well as assisting in research aimed at developing publishing tools and technology.

<http://www.sba.gov.ae/>

The British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

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