

MENTOR ACCESS PROJECT (MAP 2016 - 2017)

APPLICATION GUIDE

The Mentor Access Project (MAP) is a unique 12-month mentorship programme that aims to develop fresh Singapore literary talent in the four official languages – English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil. It is presented by the National Arts Council (NAC) and organised by The Writers Centre Singapore.

Successful applicants will undergo an intensive mentorship programme with an established Singapore writer and participate in an exciting series of literary activities, many of which are exclusively arranged for MAP participants only. These include dialogue sessions, talks, workshops and other events at the Singapore Writers Festival 2016. A highlight of MAP is a two-day stay-in writers' residency, which will provide a creative and communal space for participants to learn, network and share and discuss their writing.

WHO MAY APPLY

Applicants must:

- Be Singapore citizens or permanent residents
- Be 18 years of age or above
- Not have published more than one full-length work (novel, non-fiction book, collection of poems or short stories) or had more than one full-length play performed

ELIGIBLE GENRES

Poetry, prose (short stories, novellas/novels, children's and young adult literature, creative non-fiction) or drama in English, Chinese, Malay or Tamil.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment will be based on:

- Literary merit of writing samples and supporting materials
- Programme's potential to contribute to the applicant's growth and development as a writer
- Interview with applicant, to be held between **Fri, 18 March 2016** and **Thursday, 24 March 2016**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Complete the attached **Application Form** along with the following **3** supporting materials:

1. PROPOSAL

- Statement of purpose
- Outline of work plan and expected benefits of the mentorship programme
- Details of the proposed literary work to be developed and completed during MAP

2. CURRICULUM VITAE

3. EXISTING WRITING SAMPLES in one of the following genres (can be previously published or unpublished):

- Poetry (5 poems)
- Prose (1 short story or 1 chapter from a novel or 1 essay for Chinese prose)
- Creative Non-Fiction (1 essay or 1 chapter from a non-fiction book in areas such as biographies, travel writing, art criticism, personal essays, etc.)
- Drama (10 pages of a play)

4. WRITING SAMPLE FROM THE PROPOSED WORK TO BE DEVELOPED AND COMPLETED DURING MAP

- 5 pages of the manuscript (for fiction, drama and creative non-fiction); or
- 5 poems

CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- Upon acceptance into MAP, successful applicants (known as Mentees) will each pay a **one-time, non-refundable programme fee of S\$500** (discounted fee of **S\$350** for students, NSF and senior citizens). This fee covers the cost of attending all events in the attached Calendar of MAP Events.
- Mentees are required to attend all mandatory events in the attached Calendar of MAP Events, in particular the two-day, two-night stay-in writers' residency to be held from **Friday, 6 May 2016** to **Sunday, 8 May 2016**.
- Mentees are required to submit a progress report midway through the programme, as well as the following at the end of the programme:
 - Final evaluation report
 - Original and complete manuscripts in chosen genre:
 - Poetry (30 poems)
 - Prose (6 short stories or 1 novella/novel or 10 essays for Chinese prose)
 - Creative Non-Fiction (6 essays or 1 non-fiction book)
 - Drama (1 play)
- NAC and the MAP Organiser reserve the right to suspend any participants from the programme if any rules, instructions or requirements are not complied with.
- Submitted works may be published (in print or online) at NAC's discretion. The support of NAC and MAP must be acknowledged upon the publication or performance of works produced during MAP. This should be indicated in publications or publicity materials associated with performances.

EMAIL SUBMISSION

Applications are accepted **by email only**.

- Send your application to admin@thewriterscentre.org
- Put "Application for MAP 2016-2017" in the subject line. The Application Form and all supporting materials should be **sent as attachments**, not pasted in the body of the email. All attachments must be submitted in either Microsoft Word (.doc, .docx) or PDF (.pdf) format.

CLOSING DATE

All applications for MAP 2016-2017 must arrive **no later than 11.55pm on Tuesday, 15 March 2016**. Late, illegible and incomplete applications will not be accepted. Results will be announced in late March 2014.

ENQUIRIES

Please contact the MAP Organiser at admin@thewriterscentre.org



MENTOR ACCESS PROJECT (MAP) 2016-2017
APPLICATION FORM

(February 2016)

PERSONAL PARTICULARS		
Applicant's Name as in NRIC (including Chinese characters, if applicable) Mr / Ms / Dr	Date of Birth/Age	Singapore NRIC No
Mailing Address	Telephone Mobile Home	Email Address
Current Occupation & Employer's Name (if applicable)	Highest Educational Level Attained / Year Graduated (secondary school, college, polytechnic, university etc)	
Genre Poetry / Prose / Drama / Creative Non-Fiction	Language English / Chinese / Malay / Tamil	Dates of overseas trips longer than 30 days during MAP (if applicable)

ANNEX A: PROPOSAL AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
<p>Please describe your proposed project (no more than 1000 words):</p> <p>i) Statement of purpose outlining the objectives (Why is this mentorship appropriate for you at this time? What do you anticipate getting out of the experience?)</p> <p>ii) Outline of work plan and expected benefits of the mentorship programme (What do you plan to achieve during MAP to consider it successful, and how will you work towards that?)</p> <p>iii) Artistic concept and synopsis of the proposed literary work to be developed and completed during MAP, including the proposed creation process.</p>

ANNEX B: CURRICULUM VITAE
<p>Please attach a brief and updated curriculum vitae (no more than 1000 words):</p> <p>i) An overview of education and work experience</p> <p>ii) Other qualifications and achievements</p>

ANNEX C: WRITING SAMPLES
<p>Please supply BOTH of the following documents:</p> <p>i) Existing writing sample in one of the following genres (can be previously published or unpublished)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poetry (5 poems); or - Prose (1 short story or 1 chapter from a novel or 1 essay for Chinese prose); or - Creative Non-Fiction (1 essay or 1 chapter from a non-fiction book in areas such as biographies, travel writing, art criticism, personal essays); or - Drama (10 pages of a play) <p>ii) Sample from proposed work to be developed and completed during MAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 pages of the manuscript (for fiction, drama and creative non-fiction); or - 5 poems

DECLARATION		
<p>I certify that the information given above and in the attached Annexes A, B, and C are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and complete, and I agree to abide by the rules and conditions governing this application.</p>		
	<u>Annex</u>	<u>Tick here if provided</u>
Proposal and Statement of Purpose	A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curriculum Vitae	B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing Samples (Existing AND Proposed Work)	C	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature : _____	Date : _____	
<p>PLEASE ENSURE ALL RELEVANT ANNEXES ARE PROPERLY LABELLED AND ATTACHED. LATE, ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL <u>NOT</u> BE ACCEPTED. Note: Supporting material will not be returned to applicants.</p>		

MENTOR ACCESS PROJECT (MAP) 2016-2017 CALENDAR OF MAP EVENTS

We encourage Mentees to attend all talks, workshops and activities that they are invited to. This will allow them to learn from and network with other literary enthusiasts, writers and fellow participants.

To successfully graduate from MAP, we have stipulated the attendance requirements for MAP events listed below. MAP events are typically held on weekday evenings or on Saturdays.

Date	Event Description	Requirements
Saturday, 16 April 2016 2pm to 4pm	MAP Welcome Tea An introductory networking event for Mentees to get to know one another, read a short sample from their work and meet the MAP Organiser, NAC Representatives and Mentors.	Mandatory attendance
Friday, 6 May 2016 – Sunday, 8 May 2016	MAP Two-Day, Two-Night Writers' Residency A stay-in two-day, two-night writers' residency with a rigorous and engaging programme of creative writing workshops and other interactive activities conducted by published writers and industry professionals.	Mandatory attendance
Saturday, 16 July 2016	MAP Workshop 1 The first of three 3-hour workshops conducted by established writers, editors and/or literary agents. These sessions promote in-depth learning about writing and editing through discussions and hands-on exercises.	Mandatory attendance
Saturday, 20 August 2016	Peer Assessment 1 The first of two 2-hour group critique sessions, which enable Mentees to receive and give constructive peer feedback.	Mandatory attendance
12 September 2016	Submission of progress report and partial work-in-progress manuscripts	
Saturday, 24 September 2016	MAP Workshop 2 The second of three 3-hour workshops.	Mandatory attendance
Saturday, 15 October 2016	Peer Assessment 2 The second of two 2-hour group critique sessions.	Mandatory attendance
Friday, 31 October 2016 – Sunday, 9 November 2016	Singapore Writers Festival (SWF) Mentees will receive a Festival Pass that provides entry to the majority of SWF sessions, such as discussion panels, talks and other literary events. Mentees will be required to attend at least <u>two</u> panels/talks relevant to their genre of writing, as recommended by their Mentor. MAP showcase at SWF2016 (Mandatory participation) 1-hour programme presenting short excerpts of all mentees' work-in-progress.	Mandatory attendance: i) at least <u>two</u> SWF events covered by the Festival Pass ii) any other MAP activities held during SWF
Saturday, 14 January 2017	MAP Workshop 3 The third of three 3-hour workshops.	Mandatory attendance
Friday, 31 March 2017	Submission of final evaluation report and completed manuscripts	
Saturday, 22 April 2017	Graduation Showcase Graduating participants will showcase their completed MAP works through performances or readings and receive their certificates of participation.	Mandatory attendance

MENTOR ACCESS PROJECT (MAP) 2016-2017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Application Procedures

Can I submit my application in hardcopy by post?

No. All applications must be submitted by email to admin@thewriterscentre.org unless very special circumstances do not allow an applicant to do so. If this is the case, please contact the MAP Organiser.

Can I submit an application for more than one genre?

No. You have to choose one genre for the entire duration of the mentorship.

Can I change my genre halfway through the mentorship?

No. You cannot change your genre halfway through the mentorship.

Can I apply if I'm under 18 years of age?

MAP is targeted at writers 18 years of age or above. If you are turning 18 this year, you may apply. Do note that you must be able to commit to the entire MAP programme on top of your studies and extra-curricular activities. For those below 18 years of age, there are other available talent development schemes in secondary schools and junior colleges.

Will you confirm receipt of my application?

Yes, we will confirm receipt via the email address provided on the Application Form.

Selection Process

What criteria will be used in the selection process?

The writing samples along with the proposal and statement of purpose will form the initial basis of shortlisting. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview with the selection panel. NAC and the MAP Organiser reserve the right not to disclose reasons for approving or rejecting an application.

Who will be on the selection panel?

The selection panel will comprise the MAP Organiser, a representative from NAC and an independent industry professional.

When and where will the interviews be conducted?

Interviews with shortlisted applicants will be conducted during day or evening timeslots from **Friday, 18 March 2016 to Thursday 24 March 2016** at The Writers Centre Singapore, 28 Aliwal Street, #02-05, Aliwal Arts Centre, Singapore 199918. Please ensure that you will be available during these dates, as failure to attend the interview will result in removal from the shortlist.

How many successful candidates will be chosen?

Usually 12-20 successful candidates will be selected from the shortlist of interviewed applicants.

When will I know the panel's decision?

All applicants will be informed by email of the outcome of their application, whether successful or unsuccessful, by the end of March 2016. We regret that we will not be able to engage in correspondence on unsuccessful applications.

The MAP Programme

If I am a selected as a successful candidate, what will I receive?

As a Mentee, you will be mentored by an established writer, attend a two-day, two-night writers' residency, participate in workshops and peer assessment sessions as well as take part in the Singapore Writers Festival 2016. You will also get the opportunity to have your final work reviewed by industry professionals and possibly selected for publication.

When do I have to pay the programme fee?

You do not need to pay anything at the time of application. Successful candidates will pay the one-time, non-refundable S\$500 fee (or a discounted fee of S\$350 for students, NSF and senior citizens) to confirm their acceptance of the offer to become a Mentee.

What does the programme fee cover?

This fee covers the administrative costs of running various aspects of the programme. Mentees can take part, at no further cost, in all events detailed in the attached Calendar of MAP Events, including the two-day, two-night writers' residency, three workshops and two peer review sessions. Other optional workshops, seminars and literary events will also be publicised to Mentees, with some subject to additional fees. The programme fee does not entitle Mentees to other services not covered within the scope of the programme, such as written critiques of manuscripts.

What will be expected of me as a Mentee?

As a Mentee, you will be expected to attend the two-day, two-night writers' residency and participate in all mandatory events listed in the attached Calendar of MAP Events. Mentees must submit a progress report midway through the programme and produce a final evaluation report along with the completed work at the end of the programme. Mentees who have submitted all required deliverables on time will successfully graduate from MAP and receive certificates of participation.

What is the two-day, two-night writers' residency about?

A highlight of MAP 2014 is the two-day, two-night stay-in writers' residency, which will be held from the evening of **Friday, 6 May 2016** to the evening of **Sunday, 8 May 2016**. This residency will focus on the craft of writing and feature a series of talks and workshops by established writers and industry professionals. Mentees will have a unique opportunity to learn writing skills, set clear writing goals as well as engage and bond with other Mentees in a conducive and creative environment.

What if I can't take part in the two-day, two-night writers' residency?

All Mentees must take part in this compulsory residency. If you know that you will not be able to commit to attending the residency from 6 May 2016 to 8 May 2016, we advise that you apply for MAP next year.

What if I'm out of the country during other times of the MAP year?

You need to state in the Application Form the dates of overseas trips that are longer than 30 days during the duration of MAP.

What are peer assessments?

Peer assessments will be conducted in August 2016 and October 2016. Mentees will be required to constructively comment on the work of their fellow participants. These critiques will be given in writing as well as during group sharing sessions.

Mentorship

How will I work with my Mentor?

Your Mentor will provide meaningful feedback on your writing to stimulate your writing process and help shape your work. All Mentors and Mentees will meet at the start of the residency during the Welcome Tea. Evaluation reports will be submitted by Mentors on their Mentees every six months.

How often will I meet my Mentor?

Mentors and Mentees are encouraged to keep in touch regularly during the MAP year. Mentor and Mentee can discuss and agree upon how the mentorship is to be carried out based on both parties' schedules and preferences. However, we recommend that Mentors and Mentees correspond at least once a month and meet up face-to-face at least once every two months, which can take the form of discussions, attending literary events and other activities that the Mentor deems beneficial to enhance the Mentee's learning and to inspire new writing. These meetings should be supplemented with regular email or telephone discussions.

As the Mentor will be based in Singapore and all MAP events will be held in Singapore, you must inform your Mentor and the MAP Coordinator if you will be away from Singapore for an extended period of time. In the event that the Mentor or the Mentee is overseas or unable to meet due to work exigencies or study schedules, discussions can be conducted via email, online messaging or telephone.

Graduation

What will I receive upon successful completion of the programme?

Upon the recommendation of their respective Mentors, Mentees who have shown commitment to the programme and submitted all deliverables on time will be deemed to have successfully completed MAP and will receive certificates of participation during the Graduation Showcase.

Do I own the intellectual rights to my Work?

Yes, you own the copyright to your work. However, submitted works may be published (in print or online) at NAC's discretion. Additionally, if you have your work published or performed after MAP, we require an acknowledgement in the publication and publicity materials that the work was completed as part of NAC's Mentor Access Project 2016-2017.

If your question has not been addressed here, please email the MAP Organiser admin@thewriterscentre.org

About National Arts Council and The Writers Centre, Singapore Ltd

MAP is presented by the National Arts Council (NAC) and managed by appointed MAP organiser, The Writers Centre Singapore.

National Arts Council

NAC was set up as a Statutory Board in September 1991 to spearhead the development of the arts in Singapore. Its mission is to nurture the arts and make it an integral part of people's lives. Anchored on the twin strategies of excellence and engagement in the arts, NAC aims to build a vibrant arts sector by creating a conducive environment where the arts is accessible to all and artistic talents have necessary resources and capabilities to excel and achieve sustainability in the long term.

The Writers Centre, Singapore Ltd

The Writers Centre Singapore Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated on 23 April 2009 and is committed to developing and supporting the artistic and professional development of aspiring, emerging and established writers.