



SCOTLAND/AUSTRALIA RESIDENCY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2020

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline for Applications: Monday 9 December 2019 (Midnight)

Overview & Eligibility

In 2020 Cove Park will collaborate with Varuna, the National Writers' House, Katoomba, Australia to deliver a residency exchange programme for writers, based in Scotland and in Australia. The programme is supported by the Bridge Awards Foundation and will initially run for three years from 2019 to 2021.

Cove Park is one of Scotland's leading residency organisations and creates opportunities for both national and international artists to develop new work within supportive and inspiring contexts. Varuna is Australia's national residential writers' house in the former home of writers Eleanor and Dr Eric Dark. Since 1989 Varuna, the National Writers' House has inspired the creation of new Australian writing and provided support for a thriving writing community and growing alumni.

We invite applications from writers based in Scotland, who have formerly been resident at Cove Park as part of the Funded Literature Programme.

The Scottish writer will be awarded a four-week residency at Varuna, the National Writers' House of Australia. The residency will take place during the summer of 2020, and must include the weekend of the [Blue Mountains Writers' Festival](#) (22nd and 23rd August 2020). Within this period, residency dates are negotiable.

Both partner organisations will be involved in the appointment of the participating writers and each partner will host a funded residency of four weeks.

Context

Varuna, the National Writers' House is located in Katoomba, which is part of the world heritage Blue Mountains region of New South Wales. Built by the Australian writer Eleanor Dark and her husband Dr Eric Dark in the late 1930s the house is now recognized as a site of cultural significance listed on the NSW heritage register. In 1989 Michael Dark, the son of Eleanor and Dr Eric Dark, gave the house to the Eleanor Dark Foundation so it could be used as a retreat for writers.

Situated in beautiful gardens, Varuna is a friendly and relaxed residential retreat for writers. The Varuna Residential Program supports intensive work, conversation and community for writers at all levels of experience and across a wide range of writing practice. The program runs continuously throughout the year with up to five writers, each with an identified project, invited to be in residence at Varuna at any one time. The five streams of the Varuna Residential Program are: Varuna Fellowships, Varuna Publisher Introduction Program, Varuna Guided Programs, Varuna Invitation by Request Residencies and Varuna Residential Partnerships. Varuna supports a range of residential opportunities for writers that encourage equity, access and diversity in Australian writing. It also values exchange and has developed a number of successful international exchanges.

Please find further information on the Varuna website at www.varuna.com.au.

Facilities, Accommodation and Workspace

- Shared house with five separate bedrooms and writing rooms (including the Eleanor Dark Studio), three bathrooms and four lavatories, comfortable living and dining rooms; an extensive library of contemporary Australian literature; and a spacious, well-equipped kitchen and laundry.
- Large, beautifully landscaped gardens
- The resident will be provided with their own private bedroom and writing room.
- Meals are provided: Breakfast and lunch are at self-service, and a shared dinner is typically served between 7pm and 8.30pm. Dietary requirements can be catered for.

Dates and Duration of the Residency

The residency will take over four weeks in the summer of 2020, and must include the weekend of the [Blue Mountains Writers' Festival](#) (22nd and 23rd August 2020). Within this period, residency dates are negotiable.

Fees

The writer will receive a fee of £1,300.00 [£325.00 per week].

**Please note: the Fee is inclusive of VAT and payable by Cove Park to the writer. The appointment is on a freelance basis and the writer will be responsible for paying their own tax and national insurance.*

Travel

The project will meet the costs of an economy return flight from Scotland to Sydney (up to a value of £1,500.00). By arrangement, the writer will either book the flight and receive reimbursement upon display of a receipt, or Cove Park will book the flight in agreement with the writer.

The writer will need to arrange and pay for their own travel from Sydney Airport to Varuna (ca. 2 hours by public transport; find more information [here](#)).

Selection Criteria and Application Process

Selection for interview will be based on the following criteria:

1. The quality of your ideas and work
2. The relevance of this particular residency opportunity to your current practice and research interests
3. Applicants must be able to commit to a residency in Australia during the dates specified
4. We expect applicants to engage with the writing community at Varuna
5. We are looking to select a writer who has the ability to present their work as part of the Blue Mountains Writers' Festival

This opportunity is open to writers (fiction, non-fiction, prose poetry) who have previously been resident at Cove Park, as part of the funded Literature Programme.

Upon completion of the residency, the writer is expected to provide Cove Park and Varuna with two completed feedback questionnaires (no more than one page of A4 each), and accompanying photographs of their experience.

Deadline for applications: **Monday 9 December 2019**

The selection panel will include Cove Park Staff and external Advisors.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application via e-mail by **Wednesday 11 December 2019**.

This acknowledgement will include a link to our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion.

If you have not heard from us by this date (close of business), please contact Cove Park directly to confirm receipt of your application.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their submission by **Wednesday 22 January 2020**.

- Interviews via Skype will take place at Cove Park during the week of **Monday 17 February 2020**.

Submissions of Applications

Please follow the submission requirements carefully.

Please send your application to:

literature.applications@covepark.org

with the subject line:

Varuna Residency 2020

Please attach **one PDF** to your email and do not include any part of the application in the main body of this email. The PDF should include the following four items:

1. **Contact details:** postal, e-mail and website addresses, phone number and how you heard about this call for applications.
2. **Statement** (no more than one side of A4) responding to criteria 2, 4 and 5 outlined above and describing
 - your current literary practice
 - the relevance of this particular residency opportunity to your current practice and research interests
 - how you plan to engage with the writing community at Varuna
 - your experience at presenting your work in a literary context (e.g. at festivals, readings, events, workshops)

3. **CV** with the names and contact details of two professional referees (*please note: we will only contact your referees if your application is shortlisted for interview*).

4. **Documentation** of your recent work:

- If **prose**, up to 2000 words (no more than 8 pages)
- If **poetry**, up to 8 poems (no more than 8 pages)
- If a **selection of prose and poetry**, no more than 8 pages
- Any **film or video** of your work or performance of your work should be submitted on a showreel (maximum duration 5 minutes) uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo, with a link provided in the PDF.
- Any **audio** work of your work or performance of your work (maximum duration 5 minutes) should be uploaded to Soundcloud, with a link provided in the PDF.

The PDF must be no more than 5MB (our email attachment limit).

In line with our equal opportunities policy we welcome applications from writers irrespective of gender, disability, age, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The board and staff of Cove Park are dedicated to artistic excellence and the professional development of individuals and groups working within the arts and creative industries. We are committed to equality, diversity, fairness and inclusion across all art forms.

If adjustments to the above application process would improve this for you, please let us know.

We can accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written statement.

Please note: we will store applications electronically for one year. The data contained within your application will not be used for any purpose other than short-listing, running and evaluating the programme. We will not share your details with any third parties without obtaining permission from you to do so.

We would prefer not to receive applications by post. However, if you would like to submit supplementary material, such as published books, with your application, please post these to the address below. If you would like this material to be returned to you, please enclose a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

Literature Residencies 2020: Varuna
Cove Park, Peaton Hill, Cove, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE

For further information please contact:
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Further information can be found via each partner's website:
www.covepark.org
<http://www.varuna.com.au>



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