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Call for Applications

Joint translator and mentee residency
Cove Park, Scotland
24 August - 29 August

The Dutch Foundation for Literature is pleased to invite proposals from a collaborating translator and their mentee translator to take part in a week-long residency at Cove Park, in Argyll, Scotland, as part of the New Dutch Writing programme.

Produced by the agency Modern Culture - modernculture.co.uk - the focus of the residency is to develop the translation skills of the mentee under the guidance of a more experienced translator, by working on a mutually agreed text or set of texts, with a view to future publication. Cove Park provides an unrivalled setting for a writing residency, through its peaceful, rural environment and its community of fellow residents from across artistic disciplines. You can find out more about Cove Park here: <https://covepark.org/about/>.

The mentor and the mentee should agree on the texts they will work on and explain why they have selected them in their application. This is a short, intensive residency. Ideally the mentee should have completed a draft of the work in advance of the residency week. The practical organisation of the week - eg. when to work separately and when to work together is up to you. Residents can work both in their individual rooms ('cubes') or in the communal space of the Jacobs Building at Cove Park. Walking in the beautiful natural surroundings is actively encouraged!

The mentor and the mentee translator are encouraged to contribute a piece of writing on their experience for the Cove Park website and also take part in a weekly, informal sharing and discussion of work with fellow residents.

Travel and accommodation:

The mentor and the mentee translator in residence will be offered free accommodation at the Cove Park Residency Centre from **Monday 24 August - Sunday 30 August** (the actual residency will take place from the Monday to the Friday).

Cove Park is situated on a 50-acre site on Scotland's West Coast just over one hour northwest of Glasgow, on Argyll's Rosneath Peninsula. The site overlooks Loch Long, a sea loch flowing into the Firth of Clyde and on to the Atlantic. The participants in the residency will be accommodated in self-contained, private and open plan accommodation (known as 'Cubes') which offer a double bed, desk, sofa, shower room, and small kitchen with induction hobs, microwaves, fridges (with small freezer compartments), and a basic range of equipment, utensils, crockery, and glassware.

Residents also have full access to the communal Jacobs Building which offers a large kitchen, dining area, lounge, and woodburning stove. The building also houses Cove Park's growing reference library, study area, two offices, a store for e-bikes, and a laundry room. Additional spaces are available for public events and performances.

Travel costs (up to a maximum of £450 per person), will be covered. The mentor will be paid a fee of £750 and the mentee a fee of £350 for the residency. In addition, both the mentor and mentee will receive a stipend of £420 per week towards living expenses (equivalent to £30 per day for seven days).

The translators should take out their own travel and health insurance for the period of their journey and stay.

Criteria:

- - The mentor and mentee translators ('the translator team') can be based anywhere in the world, but please note that the travel expenses are likely to fully cover travel from within Europe only

- The translator team must be translating the work of a Netherlands Dutch or Frisian author into English, and the proposed project should be focusing on Netherlands Dutch or Frisian literature.

- The translator team may propose a project in any literary genre

- The mentor must have an established track record of Dutch to English translation, with a wide range of publications in recent years

- Both the mentor and mentee translator should have demonstratively native speaker level of English

- A key component of the residency is mentorship. Mentors should outline their experience of teaching translation, running translation workshops or mentoring translators as part of the application.

- The mentee translator should have aspirations to work towards publishing literary translations in the future, and this should be evidenced and referred to in the application

- Both the mentor and mentee translator must be available in person for the entire duration of the residency.

We would especially welcome applicants from global majority backgrounds.

If you are interested in this residency, please send a joint application as a mentor-mentee translator team to Martin Colthorpe at martin@modernculture.co.uk with the subject line 'New Dutch Writing Residency'.

Your application should include CVs and short biographical statements for both mentor and mentee, an outline of the collaborative translation project and why you have chosen it, an explanation of why this residency would be valuable at this point in your careers, and information about any interest from publishers.

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee composed of representatives of the Dutch Foundation for Literature, Modern Culture, Cove Park and an external translation expert from the advisory board of the Dutch Foundation for Literature.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday 20th May 2026**. We aim to notify the successful applicant by the end of May 2026.

About the Dutch Foundation for Literature:

The Dutch Foundation For Literature supports writers and translators, and promotes Dutch literature abroad. It invests in Dutch literature through grants for writers, translators, publishers and festivals, and contributes to the production and distribution of Dutch and Frisian literature both at home and abroad. With the support of the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, it aims to promote a thriving literary climate, embedded in literary history and attuned to the latest developments in the publishing industry.

About Cove Park:

Cove Park is an international residency based on an outstanding 50-acre rural site in Argyll on Scotland's west coast, offering a programme of residencies, commissions, and collaborative projects that respond to and promote the diversity of contemporary artistic practice. Cove Park's residencies are unique in the UK, and from their launch in 2000, the programme has been conceived for local, national, and international artists working individually and in collaboration in all art forms, and at every career stage. This means that Cove Park can offer exceptional opportunities for interdisciplinary work and cultural exchange on a national and international level.

About New Dutch Writing:

New Dutch Writing is a high-profile promotional campaign by the Dutch Foundation for Literature, to promote Dutch writing in translation in the UK and Ireland and to nurture the next generation of translators. It includes fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, children's and poetry books, celebrating the work of translators and responds to the burgeoning interest in international literature among UK readers while engaging them in a stimulating, cross cultural debate. Produced by Modern Culture, the campaign launched in 2019.

