

COVE PARK

LOCH LONG CRIME WRITING RESIDENCY 2026-2027

APPLICATION GUIDELINES



LOCH LONG CRIME WRITING RESIDENCY

Residency Dates: Two weeks scheduled between November 2026 and April 2027

Deadline for Applications: Monday 21 September 2026 (5pm BST)

OVERVIEW

The Loch Long Crime Writing Residency is a fully funded residency for Scotland-based writers developing new work in crime fiction. This two-week residency will be scheduled in consultation with the selected writer between November 2026 and April 2027. To support other work commitments or caring responsibilities, the resident has the option to structure their residency into one-week blocks during this time period.

Former recipients of this residency include Caro Carver (*Bad Tourists*), Callum McSorley (*Rat Race*), and Claire Wilson (*Five by Five*).

ABOUT COVE PARK

Cove Park is a residency for national and international artists working in all art forms and at every career stage. It is located on an outstanding rural site overlooking Loch Long in Argyll on Scotland's beautiful west coast.

Fiction and non-fiction writers, poets, playwrights, and literary translators have been a key part of our programme since its launch in 2000. Cove Park supports research and the development of new work, hosting those writing in all languages and paying particular attention to Gaelic and Scots. Former residents include Margaret Atwood, Polly Barton, Ann Carson, Rachel Cusk, Fred D'Aguiar, Harry Josephine Giles, Rodge Glass, Rody Gorman, Alasdair Gray, William Keohane, Vincenzo Latronico, Hannah Lavery, Nasim Luczaj, Rona Macdonald, Heather Parry, Michael Pedersen, Brooke Robinson, Kim Sherwood, Louise Welsh, and Charlotte Wood, amongst many others. We also devise international writing and translation exchange residencies and host public readings and events.

Please see our website for further information on our current programme and images of Cove Park's site and facilities. Our [FAQ page](#) answers general questions on Cove Park's residencies and access.



2025 Loch Long Crime Writing Residency recipient – Claire Wilson
(photography, Alan Dimmick).

LOCH LONG CRIME WRITING RESIDENCY: KEY POINTS

- The writer should be developing new work in crime fiction, including but not limited to sub-genres such as psychological or legal thrillers, detective fiction, police procedurals, or private eye.
- The writer will receive a total residency fee of £1,500 (£750 per week) and a travel allowance of up to £75.
- The residency is self-directed and designed to support research and the development of new writing.
- Cove Park's team will support research and practical requirements leading up to and during the residency.

WHAT COVE PARK PROVIDES

- Individual private accommodation (please note, our residencies are self-catering).
- Private workspace and 24-hour access to the Jacobs Building, including communal meeting rooms, a library, open-plan kitchen, dining area, and laundry facilities.
- Unlimited access to the 50-acre site.
- The full support of Cove Park's team.



ELIGIBILITY

- Writers based in Scotland.
- Writers who have published, with a traditional publisher, at least one book.
- Writers established in other genres but wishing to develop a crime writing project are also welcome to apply.
- Please note, writers working on scripts for film, radio, or stage are not eligible.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications can be submitted via the online [Application Form](#). The Application Form must include:

- Your name and contact details.
- A statement (no more than 500 words) briefly describing current work, the reasons for your interest in this residency, and how the opportunity will be of benefit to your work and professional development.
- Your CV and a biography of up to 200 words.
- A sample of work of up to 1000 words (no more than 4 pages)

We can accept submissions in audio or video formats if this is preferable to a written application. If you have a disability, please let us know if there are any reasonable adjustments to the application process that would be of assistance to you. If you would like to discuss this, or need help making your application, please contact Cove Park's Senior Producer [Alex Marrs](#) directly.

Selection for interview will be based on the following criteria:

- The creative strength of your work and ideas.
- Your need for a period of research and development and your reasons for applying to this programme.
- Your interest in working within a community of artists.

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We will acknowledge receipt of your application as soon as it is received. This acknowledgement will include a link to our anonymous Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion monitoring form for completion and we would be grateful for your time with this. If you do not receive this acknowledgement, please contact Cove Park directly to confirm receipt of your application. The applications will be shortlisted for interview by Cove Park Staff and Advisors.

All applicants will be notified if their submission has been shortlisted for interview by Friday 25 September 2026. Interviews will take place via Zoom during the week of Monday 28 September 2026.



EQUALITIES, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We want our residencies, programmes and resources to be open, inclusive and welcoming to all. We continue to assess how we work towards achieving greater equality and representation within all levels of our organisation and across all programmes.

Cove Park aims to provide a safe and positive environment for everyone, and to actively dismantle discrimination based on age, disability, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or parental status, race including skin colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. Additionally, we aim to dismantle discrimination based on accent, educational background, gender expression, hair texture and hairstyle, immigration status, language ability, markings and/or tattoos connected to spiritual rituals from pre-colonial cultural practices, neurodiversity, physical and mental health, size, and socio-economic status or background.

As language, terms, and expressions inevitably evolve, Cove Park is committed to reviewing this statement regularly – and as often as it becomes appropriate – with our local, national and international communities.

PERSONAL DATA

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 catalogues, 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.

Loch Long Crime Writing Residency
Cove Park, Peaton Hill, Cove, Argyll and Bute, Scotland, G84 0PE

For further information please contact:

Alex Marrs
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www.covepark.org



2022 Emerging Visual Artist Residency recipient, Sekai Machache,
at Cove Park (photography, Alan Dimmick)

We are grateful to our Cove Park Patron for their generous support and making this residency possible.

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