

Manchester City of Literature



Virtual Writer Residencies at the Festival of Libraries 2022

Manchester City of Literature and Manchester Literature Festival are offering two virtual writer residencies to take place this June during the Festival of Libraries.

During the three-week residency, writers will be hosted by either Chetham's Library or the International Anthony Burgess Foundation with the opportunity to explore their online collections and archives, meet staff to find out more about Manchester's literary heritage and collections, and enjoy virtual tours of the host venues and the city. During the residency, writers will be encouraged to share their experience of the city with Manchester's literary community via social media, to take part in other meetings and talks including sharing their work and their influences, and to produce a new piece of writing responding to Manchester or links between the city and their own UNESCO City of Literature. There is a fee of £1,500 for each residency. The residencies form part of the city's international strategy and are open to published writers with strong links to a UNESCO City of Literature outside the UK.



The activity during the residency may include:

- Writing in English or translating into English a short story, essay or series of poems (up to 2000 words) inspired by the residency that can be shared on the Manchester City of Literature and Manchester Literature Festival websites.
- An online talk as part of the Festival of Libraries about your work and the writers and libraries that have inspired you
- Meeting a writing group from Manchester online
- Presenting a virtual tour of your city, either as an illustrated talk, audio recording or self-recorded film.

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- A conversation with a Manchester host or writer about your residency and the work you produced to be shared in October as part of Manchester Literature Festival's 2022 Festival.

How To Apply

If you are interested please send a written application by email to McrCityofLit@gmail.com by the deadline of 13 May 2021. In your application please include responses to the following prompts:

- Tell us about yourself;
- Tell us about your writing and provide a link to your website or examples of your work.
- Tell us why you would like to be considered for this virtual residency and what you hope to get from it;
- Tell us about libraries in your life
- Tell us which venue you would like to be hosted by;
- Tell us about your connections to a UNESCO City of Literature.
- Tell us if you have applied for a residency at any other UNESCO City of Literature in 2022

Please also include a CV including publication record.

Timeline

Residency announced: 12 April

Applications close: 13 May

Shortlisting w/c 16 May

Interviews: w/c 23 May

Residency starts: w/c 29 May

Festival of Libraries: 15-19 June

Chetham's Library

Chetham's Library, founded in 1653, is the oldest free public library in the English-speaking world. Established with the bequest of Humphrey Chetham, who believed that poverty could be overcome by curing ignorance, Chetham's Hospital included a free library and a free school for local poor boys.

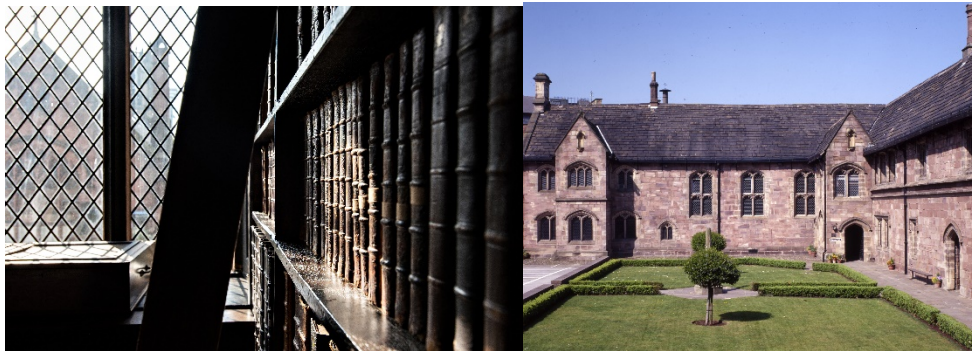
The Grade I listed building that houses Chetham's Library dates back even further to 1421 and is of significant historical value as one of the most complete medieval complexes in the north-west of England. Originally constructed to serve as accommodation for the priests of the Manchester Parish Church, the site eventually fell into disrepair before being purchased by the governors of Chetham's will in 1653.



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Chetham's Library has now been in continuous use for over 350 years, overlooking and recording Manchester's transformation from a sparsely inhabited pre-industrial town into a busy urban centre. During this time, it has acquired a vast collection, which has been designated as a collection of national and international importance under the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council designation scheme.

Today Chetham's Library specialises in the history and topography of Greater Manchester and Lancashire. Local history buffs can be transported into Manchester's past through the library's materials on Belle Vue, the North-West in the English Civil War, Peterloo, Industrialisation, local history images and maps. Chetham's Library also boasts a strong collection of early printed books in the European intellectual tradition. <https://library.chethams.com/>



International Anthony Burgess Foundation

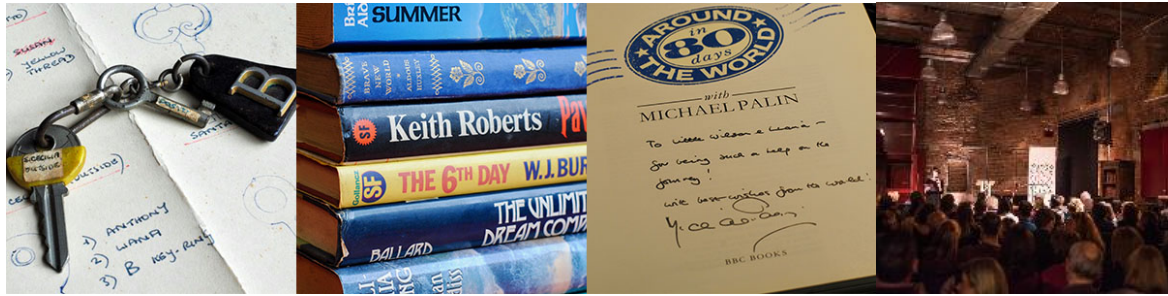
The International Anthony Burgess Foundation encourages public interest in the writer and composer Anthony Burgess (1917-1993). Based in Manchester, we have an extensive library, archive and study centre containing Burgess's books, music and papers. We also have a performance venue where we present new work by writers, artists and musicians.

Although Burgess was primarily a comic writer, his dystopia *A Clockwork Orange* is his best-known work. He published 32 other novels, including *The Complete Enderby* and *Earthly Powers*. He wrote screenplays, including the television series *Jesus of Nazareth*, and studies of other writers, including Shakespeare, Ernest Hemingway and James Joyce. His translations include *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Oedipus Rex*, and the opera *Carmen*. Burgess composed more than 250 musical works, some of which have been recorded and broadcast in recent years.

The Burgess Foundation's archive provides a detailed picture of his life and work. It includes manuscripts and music scores, an extensive private library, artworks, photographs, musical instruments, and audio and video recordings.

<https://www.anthonyburgess.org/anthony-burgess-archive/>

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The Festival of Libraries

The Festival of Libraries will be a five-day celebration of Greater Manchester's libraries taking place between 15 and 19 June 2022. This multi-venue festival will feature a vibrant programme of artist residencies, dance, performance, panel talks and walking tours.

Library partners include: Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Education Trust, Archives+, Central Library, Chetham's Library, John Rylands Library, Manchester Poetry Library, NHS Libraries, The Portico, Working Class Movement Library, the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and Greater Manchester libraries (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan).

Manchester Literature Festival

Manchester Literature Festival is one of the North's most exciting Literature Festivals. Over the last 16 years, it has distinguished itself as a Festival that provides unique and imaginative opportunities for audiences to experience high quality live literature, poetry and spoken word. Alongside an annual Festival each October, MLF presents a Spring programme of events and ongoing education projects and fun activities for children and young people.

As an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation, Manchester Literature Festival is committed to providing a platform for women writers, LGBTQ+ writers, working class writers and writers of colour. Whilst the Festival predominantly showcases Fiction, Poetry and World Literature from national, international and regional voices, MLF also hosts events with artists, activists, feminists and environmentalists as part of their Culture strand.

Manchester Literature Festival is part of Manchester's rich cultural tapestry and the Festival was central to the designation of Manchester as a UNESCO City of Literature in 2017. In keeping with this, Festival events take place across some of Manchester's most prestigious and atmospheric venues from RNCM and HOME to Central Library, International Anthony Burgess Foundation, Manchester Museum and The Whitworth. MLF prides itself on developing strong partnerships with other cultural organisations and regularly commissions poets and writers to create new work especially for the Festival. <https://www.manchesterliteraturefestival.co.uk/>

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Manchester was successful in its bid to join UNESCO's worldwide Creative Cities network as a City of Literature in 2017. Joining 38 other Cities of Literature, a consortium including Manchester City Council, the Universities, Manchester Literature Festival plus a range of the city's writers, publishers and literary organisations has formed to enable this to happen. Manchester City of Literature is a

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charity that manages the UNESCO designation on behalf of over thirty partner organisations. Our vision is to create an innovative, distinctive, equitable, globally connected city of reading and writing. We want Manchester to be a city where diverse voices are celebrated, creative talent and industries are nurtured and where literary activity changes lives.

<https://www.manchestercityofliterature.com/>

'Introducing Manchester City of Literature': 8 minute film <https://youtu.be/CX0xamVdoCg>



A UNESCO City