

Frequently Asked Questions

Who needs a Mentor?

We all need mentors, both formal and informal, at different points of our lives. A mentor is someone who has different experience and expertise from us and they are there to help us move forward towards greater knowledge, insight and motivation.

Why a writing mentor?

A writing mentor is there to give feedback on your writing and to help you make good decisions about how to continue to improve your writing. You might use your mentor purely to hone your writing and editing skills, or you might also ask for advice on aspects of submitting your work or about your creative process.

How does mentoring work at University of Strathclyde?

Our mentoring programme has been designed for writers who have been writing for a while, perhaps attending classes or groups, and who are now looking for more personalised one-on-one feedback while writing a longer piece of work or a collection of shorter works.

Why have an initial submission process? Can it be used for multiple one-off submissions?

The system is designed so that the initial submission can be used for one-off feedback on shorter pieces as well as being an opportunity to see if the mentoring programme will work for you. For instance, you can use the initial submission process if you have a piece you're considering submitting for a competition and would like some feedback on it (you can use this process as often as you wish for further pieces). If you wish to have a longer term relationship with a mentor for longer pieces of work, after the initial submission process you can choose one of our packages and get started building a relationship with a mentor focused on your writing. See our link to the Mentoring Application Process on the website.

What am I committing myself to?

The mentoring programme is meant to be flexible and last for as short a time or as long as suits your writing and your learning. So, for instance, if you choose one of the smaller mentoring packages and you love it, you can always increase your submission limits and/or choose more face to face meetings.

What are you looking for?

For the mentoring relationship to work effectively, you should be curious about your own work and be at the stage where you are seeking input in how to make it better. Everything submitted is assumed to be a work in progress feedback will be given. However, this will be substantially related to content and style and submissions will not be copy-edited for spelling and grammar. Submissions should be proofed so that there no spelling errors and formatting should be consistent. If anything is non-traditionally formatted it should be clear from the piece that this is intentional and integral to the piece's effectiveness. You can advise the mentor of this when you make your submission.

Have I been writing for long enough?

We don't have a minimum requirement for how long you have been writing but you should be at a stage where you appreciate the value of investing time and energy in the careful editing and re-writing of your work.

What type of writing will you give feedback on?

We will consider writing in any genre: fiction, creative non-fiction, genre fiction, scripts, and clusters of shorter works like poems, microfictions and prose poems. The programme is

adaptable to whatever you are working on. If you have questions about this, please contact CLL.

What form will the feedback take?

You will send your writing as a single word .doc and the mentor will read your piece closely, embedding their comments into your piece. Our mentors are all experienced creative writing tutors, writers, editors and skilled readers.

You can see sample feedback on a piece of writing by clicking the link from the webpage. The feedback you see here is similar to what you can expect to receive from your mentor.

When will I hear back from you?

We will return your piece, with embedded feedback, within 3 weeks of your electronic submission.

What if I want to drop out of the mentoring programme?

Once you have submitted your writing, there will be no refunds given. If, after you have paid for one of the mentoring packages, but have not submitted any work yet and would like to withdraw, we will give a refund less the standard £10 admin fee. A refund will only be given up to six months after booking onto the mentoring programme.

How should I format my submission?

We encourage submissions to be 12 pt Times New Roman or Arial with 1.5 or double spacing. Please put page numbers on every page in the header or footer.

Please do not write any introduction or synopsis longer than 3 sentences. Any introduction must also be included in the word count.

How do I send my submission to you?

Follow the application process and once accepted one of our mentors will contact you by email. All submissions and feedback are sent electronically via email.

When can I start?

You can start the ball rolling at any time of the year through the initial submission option. Once accepted, you can take the decision to opt for a package at any point in the year as well. You will have one year to complete each package from your start date on the programme.

If you have any questions please email learn-ctl@strath.ac.uk