



**DELFINA
FOUNDATION**

**The BQFP / Delfina Foundation
New Writing Residency
Information and Application form**

1 – Background Information

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP) and The Delfina Foundation, with the support of the British Council are working in partnership to provide a unique residency opportunity in London. The successful applicant will be an Arab national who currently lives in the Arab World. During the residency, s/he will incubate ideas; conduct independent research; access new information; take advantage of UK cultural resources, and further his/her practice as a writer. The residency will be an opportunity for the writer to become fully immersed in his or her work to deliver a completed manuscript to BQFP no later than 4 months after the residency. Under the editorial direction of BQFP, the resident will be published within two years of delivering the final manuscript.

At Delfina Foundation the successful applicant will have time to explore and experiment with ideas related to their work in progress whilst also interacting with fellow residents from other creative fields (visual arts, music, etc). During the residency the writer will also have access to mentoring through enrichment programs offered by Writers and Artists in London.

2- About the Organisations

Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP) was established in October 2008 and headquartered in Doha, BQFP has three main aims: firstly to publish books of excellence and originality in English and Arabic including fiction and non-fiction for adults and for children, educational books for schools, academic books for universities and researchers, and information and reference titles.

Secondly, BQFP, Qatar's first publishing house, aims to promote the love of reading and writing, and to help establish a vibrant literary culture in Qatar and the Middle East through reading events, book groups and other initiatives, such as World Book Day. BQFP also wants to cultivate new literary talent especially in Arabic by organizing events to support the development of aspiring new literary talent and running creative writing workshops.

BQFP's third aim is to achieve the transfer of publishing and related skills into Qatar through regular internships and secondments in Doha and at Bloomsbury's headquarters in London, training courses in key areas of publishing, and mentoring of aspiring Qatari publishers. Within this area, BQFP is committed to helping improve standards of translation into and out of Arabic beginning with the first annual BQFP International Translation Conference being run in May 2010 in Doha in partnership with Carnegie-Mellon University Qatar.

Delfina Foundation (DF) is an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to facilitating artistic exchange through residencies, partnerships and public programming. DF grew from the Delfina Studio Trust, which held an unprecedented record for nurturing and supporting over 200 artists, including more than a dozen Turner Prize nominees.

Since 2007, DF has supported international collaborations between the UK and the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia region (MENASA) working with over 150 artists to foster

cultural dialogue and debate about art in society through partnerships with leading organisations. Our aim is to develop and support, often under represented artists, writers and curators with a platform to showcase their ideas to leading arts professionals and art-lovers alike.

When DF re-opened after an expansion and refurbishment project we began something new. Maintaining a strong connection to the MENASA region DF started to engage practitioners from around the world, including the UK, making the programme focus practice rather than place. Each year DF runs three thematically focused seasonal programmes that address a key issue, question or idea. The summer season remains open to predominately support a range of emerging practioners.

3 – About the residency

The residency will take place from **20 July- 13 September 2015** for eight weeks.

The ideal candidate will be a writer or poet, who:

- wishes to strengthen his/her practice in writing or complete a work in progress
- demonstrates artistic quality and development potential in their work
- is who currently lives in the Arab World
- is an emerging to mid-career writer, at least 22 years of age
- demonstrates how the experience of an international residency in London will benefit their practice and career development
- is available during the time period
- is proficient in English

The successful applicant will be provided with:

- eight weeks accommodation at Delfina Foundation
- mentoring and professional development support from BQFP
- One return economy flight, airport transfers, local travel stipend, moblie phone allowance and a materials budget in addition to per diems which will cover basic living costs for eight weeks

4 – Application process

To apply, please submit the application form and additional material listed below **by email only**, to apply@delfinafoundation.com In the subject line of your email, please specify **BQFP OPEN CALL**.

Applicants are expected to submit:

- A completed application form
- examples of your recent work (Arabic and English accepted), including essays, publications (online and paper), blog entries or articles. If you are submitting written material, at least 2 entries should be in English.
- An abstract summarizing your full-length book project (fiction, non-fiction, poetry)

Closing date for applications: 13 November 2014

Writers shortlisted by 7 December 2014

Skype interviews with BQFP and DF representitives will take place the week of 14 December 2015

The selected resident will be notified by 12 January 2015.

APPLICATION FORM

1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

First name:	
Last name:	
Date of birth:	
Place of birth:	
Sex:	
Nationality:	
Address:	
Telephone no:	
Mobile no:	
Email address:	
Website / blog:	

You are applying as:

- a fiction writer
- a non-fiction writer
- a poet

Have you taken part in any international residencies? If so, please use the space below to list and give us more information about the program(s) you have taken part in (max. 100 words).

2 – STATEMENT

Use the space below to describe your practice or research areas and interests. (max 800 words):

Use the space below to tell us how this residency in London would benefit you at this stage in your career (max 500 words).

Use the space below to tell us how you would use your time in London, and how you wish to engage with the work of both, Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing and The Delfina Foundation.

5 – ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Please explain or provide evidence of your English proficiency, such as relevant university degrees, professional training, tests (TOEFL, IELTS).

6 - STATEMENT

I confirm this information to be correct. I have completed the application form, submitted a CV and additional materials as requested, by email only.

APPLICANT
SIGNATURE _____

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Writers or poets who meet the following requirements:

- wishes to strengthen his/her practice in writing or complete a work in progress
- demonstrates artistic quality and development potential in their work
- is an Arab national who currently lives and works in the Arab World
- is an emerging to mid-career writer, at least 22 years of age
- demonstrates how the experience of an international residency in London will benefit their practice and career development
- is available from July 20th to September 13th 2015
- is proficient in English

Do I have to write in English?

No, we accept writings in Arabic and English.

Will BQFP offer mentoring?

The selected writer will receive one 30-minute mentoring session per month (via telephone) from a Bloomsbury Qatar Foundation Publishing (BQFP) editor.

Will there be other opportunities for publishing industry experience?

Yes, you will be granted an industry-related session with the Bloomsbury Institute in London.

How much time do I have to write?

You are expected to manage your own schedule and fully dedicate yourself to researching and writing your manuscript for the duration of the residency.

What am I expected to deliver at the end of the residency?

Before, during, and after the residency you are expected to submit blog entries (three in total)

to be used online detailing your experience and the creative process.

Am I guaranteed a book deal if I receive this residency?

No, but BQFP will review your manuscript upon deliver and holds first right of refusal.

Where will I live?

Delfina Foundation's main premise is two joined terrace houses in Central London that offers a range of flexible spaces for living or working, as well as the foundation's office and a gallery. You will be staying in a mixed-gender shared house with your own furnished room and shared bathroom with one other resident. The kitchen and common spaces are communal.

Am I responsible for expenses?

Your room and board will be covered. In addition you will have a mobile phone allowance, local transportation allowance and per diem.

Who will sort out my visa?

Delfina Foundation will support arranging your the visa.