

Foster creative expression and cultural exchange



Western is home to Canada's longest-running Writer-in-Residence program and North America's only Student Writer-in-Residence.

For more than half a century, Western's Writer-in-Residence program has brought students, faculty and the wider community into conversation with leading Canadian authors.

Over the years, Western has welcomed some of Canada's most iconic literary voices — novelists, poets, short-story writers, playwrights and essayists — to share their expertise, mentor emerging authors and enrich campus and community cultural life.

Building on this legacy, the Student Writer-in-Residence program was established in 2013 by the University Students' Council and the Department of English and Writing Studies. The only program of its kind in North America, it empowers undergraduate writers to contribute to creativity on campus through peer mentorship, workshops and events that nurture talent across disciplines.

These trailblazing programs remind us of the unique power of art to unify, inspire and uplift, enriching not only the lives of individuals but also the broader university and London community. Together they:

- **Provide mentorship and guidance** to writers at every stage in their journey.
- **Offer a public platform** for cultural dialogue and creative exchange.
- **Strengthen artistic and creative expression** on campus and in the wider community.
- **Nurture the next generation** of writers and cultural leaders.

With your support, we can continue to foster emerging talent, amplify voices that shape culture and ensure creative expression remains a powerful force on campus and in the wider community.

Are you all in?
Get in touch.

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AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Western's Writers-in-Residence programs highlight Canada's literary range, bringing together voices from diverse genres, cultures and professional backgrounds while supporting the next generation of writers.

Sharing their expertise

Anna Chatterton (2025–26) is an acclaimed playwright and librettist, known for *Within the Glass* and *Gertrude and Alice*. With decades in theatre, opera and writing, Anna brings both experience and a passion for helping others tell their stories.

Cherie Dimaline (2018–19) is a novelist and editor from the Georgian Bay Métis community. She is author of *The Marrow Thieves*, winner of the 2017 Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature.

Emma Donaghue (1999–2000) is an award-winning novelist, playwright and literary historian. Her novel *Room* was adapted into the Academy Award-nominated film of the same name.

Cultivating new voices

Jaya Sinha, BA '26, is a poet and playwright whose work has appeared in *Semicolon*, *Occasus* and Theatre Western's Purple Shorts Festival.

Gray Brogden, BA '24, MA '25, is an award-winning poet and performer whose work appears in numerous anthologies and *The Sudbury Star*. In 2023, she received both the Lillian Kroll Prize in Creative Writing and the Marguerite R. Down Canadian Heritage Writing Award.

Matthew Dawkins, BA '23, is an award-winning Jamaican author and poet. His debut novel *Until We Break* and Wattpad stories have reached nearly half a million readers. His work explores adolescence, love, loss, culture and mental health.