

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN Creative Writing



PROGRAM OVERVIEW »

Low-Residency | Prose and Poetry in the Expanded Field

Stetson's low-residency program infuses reading, writing, visualizing, and learning into a student's day-to-day. We gather twice annually for ten days of workshops, performances, and artist talks in an energizing community of writers. These residencies rotate between the Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and various international locations in the Americas.* Between residencies, students exchange original work with a faculty mentor. The program culminates in a student's thesis, final performance, and craft talk. Admission to the program is based primarily on the strength of the application work sample.

*2020 – 2022 included virtual residencies due to COVID-19 precautions

MFA OF THE AMERICAS AND THE EXPANDED FIELD »

The MFA of the Americas is designed to deepen and broaden students' creative practice by bridging gaps in knowledge—across cultural and regional divides, geographic and political boundaries, artificial barriers of mode and genre, and individual and collective forms of expression. We engage artistic traditions in and beyond the US while reimagining an America inclusive of all hemispheric experiences.

Our interdisciplinary curricula in Prose and Poetry in the Expanded Field are critical to this mission. The program focuses on the rich narrative, aesthetic, and cultural traditions of the Americas, while challenging students to examine the relationship between the written word and other artistic modes: digital, cinematic, photographic, sculptural, performative, and sound.

Our students arrive from different disciplines and modalities, such as poetry, narrative prose (fiction and non-), visual art, sound, dance, social media, video, graphic design, and performance. Some are working on novels and others are creating multi-media performances, social media poetics, artist books, installation and site-specific work, videos and photographs. They are self-motivated and challenge themselves to navigate between forms, genres, and modes of art, while also gaining a solid ground in literary craft and practice. They extend the scope of what literature can be and achieve.

RESIDENCIES: DURING AND BETWEEN »

Each residency is an intensive engagement—with one's own writing and that of peers within the program. Students attend small group workshops, individual mentoring sessions, craft lectures, translation workshops and performances by faculty, guests, and students. There's time for writing, cultural excursions, and talking about publishing, all alongside the push to go further and deeper with one's own practice.

Between Residencies and Beyond

Between residencies, students work directly with a faculty writer, exchanging four online packets of work and reading a book list established in coordination with the instructor. In the final semester, students complete a thesis, which they present during a fifth partial residency (two nights). The presentation includes a public reading/performance and craft studio visit/installation. Students may opt to attend either the ACA or the international residency to present their final work.

Past and Future Summer Residencies

Online Residency, June 2022/2021/2020 | Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2019 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2018

Expand and develop your creative practice by joining our dynamic community of writers and artists. The MFA of the Americas is a two-year, low-residency program in creative writing with degrees in Prose and Poetry in the Expanded Field. Our program embraces all of the Americas, geographically and culturally, encouraging you to grow as a writer and global citizen.

FACULTY »

Our faculty consists of lively and engaged writers and artists who are well-known in their fields and excellent educators. Guest scholars have included world-renowned writers and artists, such as MacArthur geniuses Edwidge Danticat and John Keene, Francisco Goldman, Patricia Engel, Ronaldo Wilson, Laura Mullen, Tracie Morris, Amaranth Borsuk, Jeffrey Renard Allen, Jessica Lee Richardson, Matt Roberts, Edwin Torres, Andrea Jeftanovic, Mike Wilson, Carlos Soto Roman, Ana María Briede, Lucy Corin, Karen Tei Yamashita, Sergio Bessa, Erica Baum, Leonora de Barros, Ana Paula Maia, Samuel R. Delany, Pola Oloixarac, Latasha N. Nevada Diggs, Chesya Burke, Sergio Vega, Douglas Kearney, Pablo Helguera, Krista Franklin, and Yuri Herrera. Our experimental translation workshops are taught by writer-translators, such as Raquel Salas Rivera, John Pluecker and Poupeh Missaghi.

Our faculty are always willing to engage with prospective students who are interested in the program. You may request an appointment with a graduate faculty member and our Office of Graduate Admissions will help you confirm the appointment.

- Teresa Carmody, Director
- Jennine Capó Crucet
- Veronica Gonzalez Peña
- Cyriaco Lopes
- Urayoán Noel
- Stephanie Sauer
- Terri Witek

COURSES »

Creative Writing - Prose

- ENCW 612 - Prose: Introductory Course - 11 Credits
- ENCW 614 - Prose: Intermediate Course- 11 Credits
- ENCW 616 - Prose: Advanced Course- 11 to 12 Credits
- ENCW 618 - Prose: Final Project Course- 11 to 12 Credits

Creative Writing - Poetry in an Expanded Field

- ENCW 613 - Poetry in the Expanded Field: Introductory Course - 11 Credits
- ENCW 615 - Poetry in the Expanded Field: Intermediate Course - 11 Credits
- ENCW 617 - Poetry in the Expanded Field: Advanced Course - 11 to 12 Credits
- ENCW 619 - Poetry in the Expanded Field: Final Project Course - 11 to 12 Credits



Scan to apply today!

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The MFA of the Americas meets writers where they are while challenging students to examine their aesthetic positions and habits. You'll receive a lot of individual attention—in our small residency workshops (faculty-student ratio, 1:5), and over the course of the semester via written feedback and online meetings. A few distinguishing factors include:

- One of the few low-residency programs that welcome experimentation, and the only program offering “Poetry in the Expanded Field” as a concentrated focus. Our Prose option allows focus on fiction, creative nonfiction and everything in between.
- June residencies abroad, including the chance to study and connect with writers/artists from the host country. (Pending COVID)
- January residencies at the Atlantic Center for the Arts—designed by Charles Rose Architects—including full use of their studio facilities.
- An exploratory option, where students take courses in Poetry in the Expanded Field and Prose before deciding which they'd like to concentrate on for their thesis.

BURROW PRESS

Founded by a Stetson MFA alum in 2010, Burrow Press moved its operations to Stetson's MFA of the Americas program in 2020. Burrow publishes award-winning poetry and prose in print, as well as online via BP Review. Students in the MFA of the Americas program have the opportunity to get hands on experience working with Burrow, and to attend quarterly workshops and talks focusing on various aspects of the publishing industry. Burrow maintains strong community ties to Central Florida and beyond, and receives vital support from its dedicated base of subscribers.

STETSON UNIVERSITY

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