



Royal Literary Fund

NEWNHAM AND SELWYN COLLEGES

Take advantage of this **FREE, friendly and confidential service that will help improve your writing skills – and your grades**

Students of any discipline, at any level of study (from 1st year to postgraduate) are welcome to book an online session with our Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow: a professional author whose role is to help you strengthen your writing.

Sign up for a 50-minute one-to-one tutorial to help you:

- Plan your study time.
- Focus your reading for essay, dissertation or thesis writing.
- Express your ideas more clearly and confidently.
- Answer grammar and punctuation questions.
- Improve academic reading skills
- Hone your writing with the aim of improving your grades.
- Improve any academic writing: essays, reports, theses, dissertations, book chapters. (RLF Fellows do not undertake proofreading.)

Meet your Fellow:

Zoë is a respected music biographer and novelist, known particularly for her work in support of radical women and marginalised cultural figures. The author of 13 books, her debut novel was shortlisted for the Virginia Prize, and UK music writing festival Louder Than Words announced her as their 'Luminary' in 2015: <http://www.zoehowe.com>.



WHEN? Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Fridays between 11-6pm.

WHERE? Helen Gladstone room, Sidgwick Hall. Online sessions available if shielding. Further details upon booking.

HOW? Book your appointment by email: zoe.howe@rlfeducation.org.uk

The RLF Writing Fellow Service – further information:

RLF Writing Fellows offer an invaluable service to aid students in their academic journey. Every Fellow is a professional writer and operates independently of the university. Fellows have many years' experience across a wide range of disciplines, and the RLF's presence in universities across the country gives it unparalleled understanding of the issues prevalent in students' writing.

Consultations with RLF Writing Fellows offer a range of benefits:

- Confidential, one-to-one support in tutorials lasting 50 minutes
- Identifying and addressing the writing issues unique to each person
- Navigating the requirements of the individual to deliver the most helpful, effective advice

Students can receive help on a multitude of issues:

- The nuts and bolts of writing: structure, punctuation, clarity
- Critical thinking, paraphrasing and referencing
- Effective planning and time management strategies
- Coping with the pressures of extended writing, and the transition from Secondary Education

The RLF Writing Fellow Service for Undergraduates

RLF Writing Fellows can unlock the potential in your academic writing. Every Fellow is a professional writer with years of experience. They will work with you to drill down into your writing and advise on how to address any issues.

What you can expect

- A one-to-one tutorial, lasting 50 minutes
- Advice unique to your specific requirements
- Complete confidentiality

What your session might cover

- Structure and punctuation
- Writing with clarity
- Rewriting and editing
- Planning and time management
- Tackling the word count
- Critical thinking, paraphrasing and referencing

It's best to visit the Writing Fellow some way ahead of a deadline, so you've got time to apply any advice you might receive.

What students say...

“...my marks have gone up considerably. I have gone from an average of 58 to 72 this year, I cannot thank you enough.”

“I can't explain how helpful it was, not only for cutting words but for my own mental state!”

“It was the most real, honest and helpful criticism I've ever had.”

The RLF Writing Fellow Service for Postgraduates

- Daunted by that thesis?
- Overwhelmed by research?
- Returning to after a break and feeling rusty?
- Anxious about entering a new field?

Your RLF Writing Fellow can help.

RLF Writing Fellows offer an invaluable service to help you realise the full potential in your postgraduate journey. Every Fellow is a professional writer and operates independently of the university. Fellows include novelists, business writers and scriptwriters, and are thus familiar with the challenges associated with writing extended pieces over long periods.

What you can expect

- A one-to-one consultation, lasting 50 minutes
- Advice unique to your specific requirements
- Completely confidential support

What your session might cover

- Planning, preparation and time management
- Structure, punctuation, and writing techniques
- Awareness of your writing “voice” and the reader
- Rewriting, editing and proofreading strategies
- How to approach long-form writing
- Making the most of your research

Comments from students and Fellows

“I just want you to know how much I appreciate all the help you've given me over the past year. I genuinely feel like my writing has improved so much which I think is rare for a lot of people this late on. It has really helped having someone outside of the course to talk through my ideas...”

Student

“I felt that I could be helpful to some students - particularly those writing dissertations for taught masters courses or Phd research - by

entering into some fairly complex discussions about the subject in question, where I took the role of asking the student to explain their argument in broad terms and to expand on what they meant by certain key points. I questioned the work in this way in order to help the student clarify his or her ideas and argument...”

RLF Writing Fellow

You may see a Writing Fellow as many times as you need, but only make one appointment at a time. Please note that RLF Writing Fellows do not undertake proofreading, or EAP tuition.

As well as helping students at all levels, RLF Fellows can also offer support to staff. RLF Writing Fellows do not undertake proofreading or EAP tuition.

Staff comments

“I have been really impressed with the openness of [our RLF Fellows] to talk about their work, and their clear passion for helping our students, even, let’s say, those students with the more thorny issues. [...] What a privilege it is for our students to have 50 minutes of the attention of someone as experienced as they at writing. Some students have also been able to come back to a further session or two, and so understand the true nature of writing as a process and a journey of discovery.”

RLF Writing Fellow Coordinator

“All staff [...] highly value the work of the RLF Fellows. We recognise and value the differences of approach: the RLF Fellows are able to work closely on a piece of student text, and to provide detailed and in-depth discussion on that text. [...] because of time pressure and student numbers [learning advisors] spend more time in the classroom talking about approaches, techniques and methodology. The combination of the two methods, broader methodology and then in-depth discussion of particular texts, is an offering strongly valued by our students.”

RLF Writing Fellow Coordinator