

CALLALOO CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP (CCWW)

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How many participants per leader are accepted to the workshop?

A: Fiction workshops typically consist of 5-7 participants. Poetry workshops typically consist of 8-10.

Q: How many hours per day can I expect to be in class?

A: Workshop classes are typically scheduled Monday-Friday for three hours per day. Participants may also request a one-to-one meeting with his or her workshop leader(s) during the week(s) of the CCWW.

Q: What kind of benefits do I get for participating?

A: Accepted participants can expect an intensive week of reading, writing, discussion, and critique with a diverse group of emerging and developing writers, consisting mostly of poets and fiction writers in the African Diaspora. Several workshop participants are already published writers, and, certainly, some former participants have gone on to publish widely—Jericho Brown, Tiphonie Yanique, Jamaal May, and Tommy Mouton, just to name a few.

Q: Will my work be considered for publication after the workshop?

A: *Callaloo* often publishes special sections of the journal documenting past CCWWs which include photo spreads, reflections by the workshop leaders, and selected workshop stories and poems written by workshop participants. Selections of pieces for publication in *Callaloo* are made at the editor's discretion.

Q: What cost is covered by *Callaloo*?

A: *Callaloo* is a nonprofit organization and therefore cannot cover participants' expenses. The fee for the workshop is \$150 (U.S. dollars) once you have been accepted. All other expenses, including accommodations, travel, and board, are not included in the workshop.

Q: What kinds of accommodations are available for participants?

A: Inexpensive campus accommodations were arranged for participants in our 2014 CCWW in Barbados, and we hope to make similar arrangements for our workshops held outside of the U.S. in 2015. We are currently negotiating arrangements for dormitory accommodations (available at a reduced rental fee) for participants in our 2015 workshops in Cave Hill,

Barbados, and Oxford, United Kingdom. For our 2015 workshop at Brown University, a block of rooms reserved at a reduced rate may be held for participants to rent at the nearby Hotel Providence. Applicants should plan for the possibility, however, that they will need to secure accommodations on their own.

Q: Are fellowships or scholarships available for the workshop?

A: *Callaloo* cannot provide funding for workshop attendees, unfortunately. However, some former participants who were enrolled in colleges and universities have successfully requested travel funding from their academic departments.

Q: Should I submit already finished or completed work? Or should my submissions be work that I want help finishing?

A: Given the highly competitive nature of workshop admission, we encourage applicants to submit their very best work for consideration when applying. Accepted applicants may opt, then, to submit less polished pieces for feedback and critique in their workshop classes. Accepted applicants may also be expected to develop new pieces during the CCWW.

Q: How far in advance will accepted applicants be notified?

A: Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status two months in advance of the workshop. At that time, a deadline will be set for accepted applicants to pay the required, nonrefundable CCWW registration fee. Workshop applicants on our wait list will be extended invitations (at the editor's discretion) in the event that an accepted applicant either declines his or her invitation or does not pay the required registration fee by the deadline.

Q: Can I apply in both the poetry and fiction workshop sections?

A: We ask that applicants for the CCWW apply in one genre only. Due to the large number of applications we receive for each CCWW, we must take measures to limit the number of manuscripts our evaluators must review. Please note that the manuscripts of writers applying in both poetry and fiction for any given workshop will be discarded.

Q: How are applicants chosen?

A: Applications undergo a rigorous evaluation process by selected readers and by *Callaloo's* editor. Invitations are offered to applicants at the editor's discretion.

Q: Will the manuscript I submit with my application be the manuscript developed in the workshop?

A: Not necessarily—given the highly competitive nature of workshop admission, we encourage applicants to submit their very best work for consideration when applying. Accepted applicants may opt, then, to submit less polished pieces for feedback and critique in their workshop classes. Accepted applicants may also be expected to develop new pieces during the CCWW.

Q: **Do the leaders work with my specific submission?**

A: Accepted participants can expect individualized feedback from workshop leaders on their piece(s) submitted for consideration during the workshop. Workshop leaders may (at their discretion) also refer to pieces submitted with participants' applications when providing feedback on an individual's work.