**AWP’s Ninth Tweet Chat: #MFAChat  
November 2 from 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET**

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Today at 2 p.m. ET, use ~~#~~**MFAchat** to join the discussion about writing programs.



[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Welcome to AWP's 9th Twitter chat! Today we'll be discussing writing programs. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

With us today is Director of Membership, Diane Zinna, [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Also from the Membership department is Membership Associate Kenny Lakes, [~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

And from the Publications department, we are joined by Jason Gray, [~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

We are also joined by many writing programs across the world & a recent MFA graduate, Elizabeth Deanna Morris Lakes, [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

About me: I have an MFA in poetry from [~~@~~**Mason\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Mason_MFA). I currently work at [~~#~~**FINRA**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FINRA?src=hash) as a test development editor. Yes, I got a real job! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

How do you choose a program that's right for you? Find out now! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

To ask a question at any time and to follow the discussion, use hashtag [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash).

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Welcome! I'm Diane Zinna, AWP's Membership Director, and I'll be your host for the next hour as we discuss MFA programs. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Like many of the staff here at AWP (breathlessly standing by to answer your questions), I attended an MFA Program. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

We also invited directors of many different creative writing programs to join us today to share their perspectives. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Over two years, I ended up applying to 30 different MA and MFA programs in poetry. I got into 6, but I only got into 1 fully funded [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

See our Guide for Applicants for ideas on writing samples, statements of purpose, recommendations, etc. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://tinyurl.com/ozbsbtx](https://t.co/A7VGGoJpyF)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

The Institute of American Indian Arts' low residency MFA is unique. Check out our faculty here: [http://www.iaia.edu/MFA](https://t.co/SfU5PyLB8i) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mhbertino)**Marie-Helene Bertino** ‏~~@~~**mhbertino**](https://twitter.com/mhbertino)

I teach here alongside some of the most brilliant minds I know. Check it out and apply, ye MFA seekers!

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

Are you considering an MFA? I'll be participating in [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)'s [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) today at 1 pm CST. Ask me anything about Iowa.

[[](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes)**red starbucks cup** ‏~~@~~**helenbholmes**](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) do you feel Iowa's been essential to your development as a writer? would I miss NYC too much to get stuff done?

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**helenbholmes**](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes) "essential" is hard to define, but I have developed during my MFA in ways I wouldn't have had I remained a freelancer [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**helenbholmes**](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes) missing NYC is tough though. It is a HUGE change and I vastly underestimated how disruptive the adjustment would be [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[**red starbucks cup** ‏~~@~~**helenbholmes**](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) could you tell me about what's been hardest for you besides the writing? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**helenbholmes**](https://twitter.com/helenbholmes) but I am much happier now. In grad school I also have amazing shit I never had before as a freelancer, like health insurance 

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

What are some points I should consider and avoid using on my SOP? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) avoid opening with "ever since I can remember I wanted to write." So has everyone else.

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthMFA)**Carla Caglioti** ‏~~@~~**SouthMFA**](https://twitter.com/SouthMFA)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) [~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) We [~~@~~**southampwriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters) recommend to be yourself -- which is very difficult to do. You're looking for the right fit

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) I just tweeted a link to our Guide for Applicants. I wrote it with our program in mind, but also for anyone MFA applicant: <http://www.muw.edu/images/colleges/as/llp/MFAGuideForApplicants.pdf>

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Any advice for writing a good Statement of Purpose essay? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) be specific and honest. spill your guts & let it all hang out. it's your time to put it all out on the table. be brave. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Here's what NOT to put in: "I've been literally writing since I came out of the womb." Focus on what you're doing now! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Know the programs you're applying to and truthfully discuss your goals--explain how you're well-matched for each other! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I always tell students asking for advice about SOP--straightforward and honest is best. Smart alecky, not so much.

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

Consider your personal statement a writing sample. Get specific and real. Don't say you've always been a reader or a writer! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) we now ask applicants to describe their current reading interests. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) Great idea. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) and no Chuck Palahniuk!

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

In the personal statement we look for serious readers and as well as serious writers. Be specific. Let us know why you want this. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Mississippi University for Women has a new MFA that is flexible, affordable, professional and personal. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/mfacreativewriting …](https://t.co/GYLhBBaWg8)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Mississippi University for Women has been coed since 1984. Our MFA is open to all. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/disclosures/non-discrimination …](https://t.co/41382vyRfM)



[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: no tracking by genre. The bad news: bring your own artistic focus. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

Hello [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) If anyone has a question about the MFA at [~~@~~**WUSTL**](https://twitter.com/WUSTL) feel free to ask. Our website is currently down, tho...bummer.

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) is on! So, first thing: Yes, we hold our residencies at a spa. This is our campus: [http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/palm-springs-rancho-las-palmas …](https://t.co/xRvt86njlL)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPalmDesert)**UCR Palm Desert** ‏~~@~~**UCRPalmDesert**](https://twitter.com/UCRPalmDesert)

See why students love our MFA program! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA) Wait...what? This is amazing! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I suggest that undergrads consider applying to an MA program or two along with MFA programs. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)**Stephen J Furlong** ‏~~@~~**BeenASon24**](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)

Stephen J Furlong Retweeted Daniel A. Hoyt

I applied to four of five MAs and am currently in an MA program now. Having those as options really helped. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I'm not just saying that because I direct the creative writing program at [~~#~~**KState**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KState?src=hash)'s MA program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I recommend Kansas State (of course, the University of Missouri (where I got my MA two decades ago), and Mississippi State. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: we’re in the Hamptons. The bad news: they don’t let you sleep on the beach. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Let's get started! Alumni and current students, what made you ultimately choose the program you attended? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

.[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) I did my MFA at [~~@~~**umsl**](https://twitter.com/umsl) - I wanted to live in a city and be in the Midwest [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

.[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**umsl**](https://twitter.com/umsl) UMSL has a great magazine and faculty. Good city too: Just ignore those Cardinals fans.

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**umsl**](https://twitter.com/umsl) Spend $ on MLB app for your favorite team! $20 a year! [~~#~~**unpaidendorsement**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/unpaidendorsement?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) I chose my program almost entirely on faculty. Also, on location (low res), reputation, strength in my track. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)**Jason Gray** ‏~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)

I'll start with this: “Don’t go in debt to be a poet.” Best advice I ever received about grad school. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

Here's some general advice and words of caution that we give to students applying to grad school in CW. [http://k-statecreativewriting.tumblr.com/post/33706859670/on-applying-to-mfa-programs …](https://t.co/IJr4pDfabI) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

1/4 Joining us: University of California Riverside's Low-Res Program, St Mary's College of California, Stony Brook Southampton [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/4 Western State Colorado University, Virginia Tech, Sierra Nevada College, Rosemont College, Kansas State, Converse College...[~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

3/4 The Institute of American Indian Arts, Mississippi University for Women, Washington University in St. Louis... [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

4/4...and Cardiff Metropolitan University in the UK. Whew! That is a lot. But there are hundreds. How to start? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

Also excited to let everyone know, if you don't that [~~@~~**WUSTL\_English**](https://twitter.com/WUSTL_English) MFA now has a CNF track, starting its second year in Fall 2016 [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

I teach in all online, all CNF program [~~@~~**Bay\_Path**](https://twitter.com/Bay_Path) U. Happy to answer any Qs. Graduate of Stonecoast low res program (U So Maine). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I applied to 13 schools while finishing my BA in creative writing from [~~@~~**SUWriters**](https://twitter.com/SUWriters). I got into 13 schools, all unfunded. I waited. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

It was an important and good decision. I got out of school with minimal debt, & teaching and editing experience. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Unless you have an inheritance, live at home, work full time, or some combination thereof, do NOT go to grad school unfunded [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

I am Kenny Lakes, Membership Associate [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I did not attend an MFA program, but am happy to point out the resources we have [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Our Guide to Writing Programs lists over 950 creative writing programs [http://bit.ly/1FTizy7](https://t.co/kUM2CG1OTk) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

We recently renovated the Guide to make it a better resource for prospective students [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Clicking on the school’s name will bring you to their full listing, where you can learn more about the program [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

You can sort the Guide by different regions or by a specific state [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

We have about 50 low-res and online-only programs listed [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

You can also narrow your search by genre and type of degree. We don’t just list MFA programs, but all undergrad and grad degrees. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Here is what that looks like on our site! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

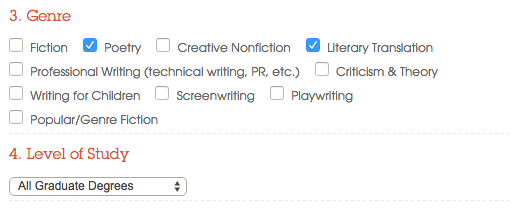


[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

When looking at the list of programs, you can easily see what degrees are offered and what genres are covered. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) So many genres to choose from! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

You can also see a list of faculty that teaches at the school as well as where the program is located [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Some faculty members' names will link to their AWP bio [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/VirginiaTechCW)**VT Creative Writing** ‏~~@~~**VirginiaTechCW**](https://twitter.com/VirginiaTechCW)

[~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) VirginiaTech: small 3 yr program + diverse student body + vibrant college town in bucolic setting + campus looks like Hogwarts

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

I tweeted a link to our Guide for Applicants—that's my advice. What other programs have advice like this? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/images/colleges/as/llp/MFAGuideForApplicants.pdf …](https://t.co/r8Sx4XiQIR)

[[](https://twitter.com/honeyhog)**Frances Cannon** ‏~~@~~**honeyhog**](https://twitter.com/honeyhog)

Where but in Iowa City can a writing grad student spend 10 weeks with so many international scholars? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

I direct the MFA in creative nonfiction at Bay Path. The first fully online MFA in CNF. Ask me anything! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

Check out our graduate Creative Writing program here: [http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/education/courses/Pages/Creative-Writing---MA.aspx …](https://t.co/VEHFAAWAU2) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)**Meagan Arthur** ‏~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)

Program directors & panel members, what are common mistakes/general turn offs that you often find in writing samples? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) And typos and cliches within the first sentence -- we want originality and attention to detail [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Your entrance essays don't need to be the worst lifetime movie of your life! Tell us something good! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Biggest mistake is when the guidelines aren't followed. If uncertain, be sure to ask. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) Just send your best writing and make it as perfect as you can. Write with passion. Be yourself.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Obvious ones: spelling/grammar errors, less obvious, poor poem or story structure,, sending too much. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Broadly, I tell prospective writers 1. Fully funded programs only 2. Three years rather than two 3. work on a [~~#~~**litmag**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/litmag?src=hash) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

This is so spot on. Conveniently, the [~~#~~**NonfictionWritingProgram**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/NonfictionWritingProgram?src=hash) [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) gives you the chance to do all 3+ [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Although if you're mid-career, a part-time program could be the way to go. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) Definitely, though I wonder, in that situation, if community programs like [~~@~~**GrubWriters**](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters) are then better than a program.

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Indeed. PT, online, low res - all good choices if you can't move, have a family, are in midlife. That was me. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo) [~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) Low-res, though, can be shockingly expensive.

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo) State schools to the rescue! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) Yep. Choose where to apply wisely. I just crossed out the low res ones I knew I couldn't pay off in 2 years. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) And part-timers generally don't get funding. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Very true, and people should know this [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) We have partial scholarships for part-time at 6 hours, which is also required for federal loans.

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

Yes, yes, and yes. I took loans out and really wish someone had emphatically told me not to. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JonMcConn)**Jon Chaiim McConnell** ‏~~@~~**JonMcConn**](https://twitter.com/JonMcConn)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Still don't really conceive of what my massive debt means for my life 3 years later, so I don't even know how dumb I am yet [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JonMcConn)**Jon Chaiim McConnell** ‏~~@~~**JonMcConn**](https://twitter.com/JonMcConn)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) that is, it's an amount of money so large that it's not worth worrying about day to day [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**JonMcConn**](https://twitter.com/JonMcConn) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Same boat for me now, due to undergrad alone! My student loan debt gets bigger daily, no matter how much I pay into it.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Affordable: The W offers low in-state tuition & waives non-resident fees for all graduate students. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/as/llp/english/graduate/mfacwcosts …](https://t.co/k1iwVXk75Y)

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[~~@~~**converseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) is a low res MFA that provides partial scholarships, opportunities of TA spots & other options [http://www.converse.edu/mfa](https://t.co/4LpFvFX03C) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

QUESTION: What are the factors you’d rank highly when considering creative writing programs? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) [2h2 hours ago](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves/status/661623975831805953)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) FUNDING, faculty, coursework options, lit journal, reading series, location, camaraderie, professionalization. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) YES! Funding has got to be #1!

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) faculty #1; curriculum #2. visit campus if you can. connect w alums & current students [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JasmineKEvans)**Jasmine Evans** ‏~~@~~**JasmineKEvans**](https://twitter.com/JasmineKEvans)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) faculty, location, professional development, scholarships, and to a lesser extent alumni involvement [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Who you'd like to work with, location, funding, aesthetics of the program. But getting too hung up on any of those can limit you

[[](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)**Jason Gray** ‏~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)

What opportunities are available? Teaching? Lit mag? Reading series? Chance to study second genre? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray) [~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa) offers a 3rd yr in a second genre. i ([~~@~~**CandaceErosDiaz**](https://twitter.com/CandaceErosDiaz)) am an alumna w a dual concentration in CNF & fiction. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

UCDavis [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash): it's funded, it's got Yiyun Li, Pam Houston and Lucy Corin, and it's got SF commuters. Not a [~~#~~**frenemy**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/frenemy?src=hash) environment. Apply.

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: Meg Wolitzer, Roger Rosenblatt, Billy Collins, Patty Marx. The bad news: premature laugh lines. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Worry 99.9% about your writing sample, and the other .1% about GRE and statement of purpose [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I'd tweak [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)'s numbers a little: 90 writing sample, 9.9 SOP, and .1 GRE! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [6m6 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna/status/661622340938293248)

QUESTION: What would matter more to you? Location or faculty? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/write2recite)**Ana** ‏~~@~~**write2recite**](https://twitter.com/write2recite) [20m20 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/write2recite/status/661630308740009985)

Faculty is important when looking into MFA programs. Because a quality education counts more than location. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

Faculty, faculty, faculty. By far the most important: [http://bit.ly/1iB1zBy](https://t.co/hAOQYLguP3) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

And when I say "faculty," I mean both distinguished writers and gifted, dedicated teachers. Happy to say we have both. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

I think the community of students matters in an MFA program. A lot. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) Completely agree. I had that. Want my students to have the same. As director,I make sure faculty foster that community [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Depends on the individual, but I think faculty is very important. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I never looked at schools based on who taught there. Amazing writers can be really bad teachers. (No offense, amazing writers.) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

Oh, wow, but when you get both...[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) very true. good then to speak w faculty & ask about their teaching philosophy/experience. don't be afraid to dig in [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) true! Can be awesome, ex.: [~~@~~**pam\_houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston). I believe in going somewhere where you can relate on big stuff your work gets at

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) [~~@~~**pam\_houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston) Yes! It's good to get a feel for the faculty as a whole, not just yr fav writer.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Or, maybe your dream writer will end up being so busy you'll never see them! My point: going for one person is risky. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) Yes, and sometimes the greatest writers are not the greatest teachers. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) And just because you haven't heard of a writer on faculty, doesn't mean they aren't a great writer/teacher [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) The big names will likely be swamped and unable to work with you as closely as you'd like. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover) [~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) Not so! Not so! They don't have to teach, after all. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) [~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) True, but they often have a ton of their own deadlines to meet. Not always!

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover) [~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) Exactly. ask if those marque names do more than an occasional lecture. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) This is so true. Too much emphasis on what teachers have pub and not enough on who've they helped get pub

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Jennifer Atkinson is my motherpoet/beacon/role model now. I had never heard of her before!

[[](https://twitter.com/Aaron__Burch)**Aaron Burch** ‏~~@~~**Aaron\_\_Burch**](https://twitter.com/Aaron__Burch)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) or maybe, once you get in, or while you're there, they get a job somewhere else!

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**Aaron\_\_Burch**](https://twitter.com/Aaron__Burch) We just had Alan Cheuse die at GMU (RIP.) Faculty changes for so many reasons.

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

What you need to know: We're looking for writers who want to publish their books and make their movies/tv shows. Not hobbyists. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Are there fully-funded programs that are good fits for non-traditional (i.e. really fucking old) students? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) So many of my peers were "really fucking old." The MFA isn't like getting a BA degree later in life at all.

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Feel like I'm missing a step or two here.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I always hear low-res is often a better fit for older writers, & it sounds appealing. But low-res = no funding

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Right. When you see the prices, you'll have some serious sticker shock, good as the programs are.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) My tattoos are creeping up into that range $$-wise. Will an MFA make me look good with my shirt off? ;)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Low-res is great if you have other obligations/own a house or don't want to move/ have a job, etc.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Yeah. Have a great job, and cities I want to live in don't necessarily have MFA programs I like.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Plus I like the one-on-one mentorship aspect. Just trying to decide if $30-40K is worth it.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Plus I like the one-on-one mentorship aspect. Just trying to decide if $30-40K is worth it.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Do you want a new writing support group? Do you feel like you've exhausted your current resources? If so, it is.

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) Hard to say w/o knowing you better. Community matters, such as small town vs. big city, and so forth.

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) In short, I'd say No. A library card and daily writing will do you much better.

[[](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)**Ray Shea** ‏~~@~~**rayjshea**](https://twitter.com/rayjshea)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Brother Mouzone agrees.

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

We offer courses in food&travel writing, writing the personal profile, women's spiritual stories, health&wellness writing, more [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

And MFA programs are still really hard on writers of color. Look for diversity among the students and faculty. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Teri_choco)**Tola Rotimi** ‏~~@~~**Teri\_choco**](https://twitter.com/Teri_choco)

Cant stress this enough.[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/HippieFresa)**Amy Arce** ‏~~@~~**HippieFresa**](https://twitter.com/HippieFresa)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) what about Latinos? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**HippieFresa**](https://twitter.com/HippieFresa) peep [~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) and similar programs.

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) White faculty and students are the minority at the Institute of American Indian Arts' MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Which makes for some interesting discussions.

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) I'd love to hear more about this.

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) A lot to say in 140 characters, but there will be essays for sure. Follow the action here: [https://vimeo.com/138799424](https://t.co/0LXBqCc66v)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Worth watching, [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Yes!

[[](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)**Erika Dreifus** ‏~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) And bear in mind that diversity goes beyond skin color. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

[~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) age, culture and life experience all important too

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus) [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) Absolutely. I would want to see diversity in types of writing produced, age, experience, publishing avenues [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

We offer competitive fees for a WRITING program in one of the UK's capital cities [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/stedwardsOWL)**Online Writing Lab** ‏~~@~~**stedwardsOWL**](https://twitter.com/stedwardsOWL)

An [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) is happening right now, English majors [~~@~~**SEUhumanities**](https://twitter.com/SEUhumanities) [~~@~~**SEUCareer**](https://twitter.com/SEUCareer)

[[](https://twitter.com/JaneFriedman)**Jane Friedman** ‏~~@~~**JaneFriedman**](https://twitter.com/JaneFriedman)

Wondering about MFA programs—whether to go or which to choose? Check out conversation right now at [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**Pam\_Houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston) talked about the importance of program location in her article for us: [http://tinyurl.com/nnqvjkb](https://t.co/yyZy9ZyevK). [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**Pam\_Houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston) said, “...it is worth trying to set yourself up to succeed, whatever that means to you.” [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**Pam\_Houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston): “Will you write more if you are happy, lonely, isolated, across the country from your parents..." [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2 [~~@~~**pam\_houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston): "...in a foreign country, car-less, able to make ends meet, or abjectly poor?" [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

What I personally wish I had considered: #12 of [~~@~~**Pam\_Houston**](https://twitter.com/pam_houston)’s piece: [http://tinyurl.com/nnqvjkb](https://t.co/yyZy9ZyevK). This rang very true for me. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Personal: small online classes using discussions and a/v chat, plus face-to-face residencies. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Flexible & Affordable: Part-time students encouraged. Most are taking 6-9 hours/semester and finish in 2-4 years. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

I would advise against going into debt for an M.F.A. I actually got into Iowa in 2012 but didn't get funding. I deferred admission. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

We really like it when applicants come and visit residency for a day -- it's good to meet you and it's good for you to meet us [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) [3m3 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi/status/661623024609701888)

I'm a 1st year Nonfiction MFAer [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa). Can't stress enough the close faculty relationships, vibrant lit community, and FUNDS here [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: The Southampton Review is a world-class lit mag. The bad news: our students roll up their sleeves to help publish it [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/looktouch)**Jessica Smith** ‏~~@~~**looktouch**](https://twitter.com/looktouch)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I went to SUNY Buffalo b/c Creeley, Howe, Bernstein were there (late 90s). No MFA program -- best decision I ever made [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

I reapplied for aid the next year, which I got. Waiting that extra year significantly softened the financial blow of grad school. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)**Max Rubin** ‏~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)

Check out the many fine pubs on our alumni book shelf at Iowa. Is that the new memoir by [~~@~~**LucasWMann**](https://twitter.com/LucasWMann) ?Yes! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)    
It's so great to see you in our sun-lit lounge [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa), [~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)! Did I mention we get buddies? This guy is mine!

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

What are the usual sources of funding? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) A handful of full fellowships, but usually from TA or other dept work.

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) 1. Teaching assistantship, 2. Administrative work (lit mag, office, etc.), 3. Fellowships/scholarships, 4. Loans.

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Avoid the loans at all costs. The first three (1) are things you can put on a resume/CV and (2) don't ruin your credit.

[[](https://twitter.com/gh0stplanet)**colette arrand** ‏~~@~~**gh0stplanet**](https://twitter.com/gh0stplanet)

[~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen) [~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) This is sound. My MFA didn't pay a bunch so I had to take loans anyhow 

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

I made this mistake on undergrad. [~~@~~**EmersonCollege**](https://twitter.com/EmersonCollege) was a great experience but cost me dearly. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) scholarships/aid offered by the program (free $$) & teaching assistantships or research assistantships (p/t work for $$)

[[](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)**Stephen J Furlong** ‏~~@~~**BeenASon24**](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) It really depends on the program and variances of fellowships. As [~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen) mentioned, lit mag work is great [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Graduate assistantships, scholarships, and student loans (keep low). Also employers and private scholarships.

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

A small class size isn’t always optimal. I was 1 of 5 in my year, but the only female & with all male teachers. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Ouch! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)**Erika Dreifus** ‏~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)

This & other worthy nuggets if you're considering an MFA program in [~~#~~**creativewriting**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/creativewriting?src=hash), via [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) happening now.

[[](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)**Erika Dreifus** ‏~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Not to mention damage even 1 not-so-constructive participant can do in a workshop of 4, esp if fac don't intervene. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**erikadreifus**](https://twitter.com/erikadreifus) Yes, I learned a lot, but it took me a while to remember who I was after I graduated. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Not quite sure about KU? Lawrence is a completely different town from what you may expect. Many reading series + active journals. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) faculty are excellent writers & teach regularly. If you apply to work with a specific writer, you will have opportunity [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) I love the low-res model...I've seen students make amazing leaps with focused attention. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: our campus in Manhattan. The bad news: finding a seat at your new favorite writing cafe [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

We also offer flexible part time tuition, in the home of Dr Who! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Flexible: Cross-genre and mixed genre writing is encouraged in classes such as Writing for New Media. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/as/llp/english/graduate/mfa-creative-writing-courses …](https://t.co/eapnsVU36e)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Your fellow grad students are a tremendous influence ... but you can't research your future cohort like you can research faculty [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)**New School Writing** ‏~~@~~**NewSchoolWrites**](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)

In 2014, 36 of our alumni and 11 faculty members published full-length collections. See for yourself: [http://newschoolwriting.org/bookshelf/](https://t.co/BlFerYo5U0) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Want to teach post-MFA? Make sure you can get teaching experience. Also understand now that this is a v. difficult goal to achieve. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NEAarts)**Nat'l Endow f/t Arts Verified account** ‏~~@~~**NEAarts**](https://twitter.com/NEAarts)

Are you in an MFA writing program or thinking of applying for one? Check out the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) going on now hosted by [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter).

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

.[~~@~~**CityOfIowaCity**](https://twitter.com/CityOfIowaCity) is a [~~@~~**UNESCO**](https://twitter.com/UNESCO) City of Lit & a community of writers, for writers. The NWP [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) opens doors locally & globally. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Our faculty write books, write TV shows, write movies & win awards. They're also super nice, which is good. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [http://palmdesertmfa.ucr.edu/faculty/](https://t.co/57mgqxnn0Z)

[[](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)**Meagan Arthur** ‏~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)

What are the most important factors when considering which applicants get funding? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) the quality of the manuscript #1 [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Writing sample, writing sample, Statement of Purpose, writing sample, letters of rec. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

Getting an MFA was the best thing I ever did, but it's not the right choice for everyone. What do you want out of it? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

If you can't answer that question yet, it's worth waiting until you can. It's rare to go straight from undergrad. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

An MFA is NOT going to: (1) guarantee you publications, (2) guarantee you a teaching job, (3) guarantee you a job of any kind. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/gh0stplanet)**colette arrand** ‏~~@~~**gh0stplanet**](https://twitter.com/gh0stplanet)

[~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen) I wish I could take back my scant MFA publication record, ha.

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

What an MFA \*will\* give you: (1) 2-3 years to focus on your writing and (2) classmates and profs to read your work. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

Yep, [~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen) is right on. I wish more applicants would slow down, take a year or two off, think about what they really want. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

Totally agree. Doesn't hurt to have something to say. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

My MFA regret...that I went right out of undergrad. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

For the record, I did do my MFA straight from undergrad & it worked out--but it's also fine to wait a few years. It depends on YOU. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)**JohnCabot University** ‏~~@~~**JohnCabotRome**](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)

We're offering 4 graduate-level CW courses this summer. Trust us, the Eternal City is good inspiration! [http://ow.ly/UcDef](https://t.co/NcHLyUkBrf) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Professional: Our program has the annual Eudora Welty Writers' Symposium with a dozen Southern writers. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/welty](https://t.co/278Qy3iPDP)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

Many high school teachers who want to pursue MFA, school district might (help) fund, esp if choosing public institution in state, [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) Yes, and check out lo-rez kid lit program at SUNY school [http://www.stonybrook.edu/southampton/mfa/childrens\_lit/index.html …](https://t.co/5raCGzLfY4)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Otherwise, figure out a way to diversify your experience. I got internships that taught me copy editing, proposal writing, and more [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

If there is any chance you want to teach in academia, apply to [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) - having the Writers Workshop on your CV opens a LOT of doors [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

If you want to ask a student who has studied with us about our program then [~~@~~**Durre\_Shahwar**](https://twitter.com/Durre_Shahwar) is happy to help [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I got my PhD at KU: Lawrence is a terrific college town: great live music, good restaurants, super-popular adult kickball. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

We like genre writing! Because, you see, we live in the 21st century, and that's what people actually read. What an idea. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Pawriter80)**Adam Lee Price** ‏~~@~~**Pawriter80**](https://twitter.com/Pawriter80)

Putting the finishing touches on my application! Get ready [~~@~~**Columbia**](https://twitter.com/Columbia) 'cause here I come! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~#~~**screenwriting**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/screenwriting?src=hash) [~~#~~**horrorFilm**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/horrorFilm?src=hash) [~~@~~**JamesGunn**](https://twitter.com/JamesGunn)

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

At [~~#~~**UVic**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/UVic?src=hash), we have a grad course in teaching creative writing for MFA students. WRIT509: Instructional SKills Preparation. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Flexible: In our low-residency MFA, residencies are separate classes. You take 4 that fit your schedule. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://www.muw.edu/mfacreativewriting …](https://t.co/GYLhBBaWg8)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Creative writing faculty, what is the most important advice you would give to a prospective student who wants to apply? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Be sure you want to LEARN. Be teachable. Be more interested in developing craft than getting affirmation, impressing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Strong sample. Think low-res v. res. Research faculty and READ THEIR WORK (sounds obv, but not!). Research location. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**dianezinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) [~~#~~**bestadvice**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/bestadvice?src=hash) Know why you want an MFA and where you want to be when finished. Know why you want to do it with us.

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

.[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Identify a potential supervisor that suits your project; submit best portfolio — the first line/page must grab. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**dianezinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) [~~#~~**bestadvice**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/bestadvice?src=hash) Also, know how you'll pay for it without excessive debt. Work your way through or get aid. Have a plan.

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Attend a fully funded program! Usually with that funding comes teaching experience, which is essential for the academic market. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Professional: We want to graduate professional writers who are skilled at their craft and able to work in writing related fields [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

If you are interested in applying to MFA programs, or deciding whether or not that's right for you: [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash).

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

Have heard great things from multiple sources about IAIA. Any [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) takers on IAIA thoughts? [~~#~~**diversity**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/diversity?src=hash) [~~#~~**race**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/race?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

It's behind their paywall, but [~~@~~**poetswritersinc**](https://twitter.com/poetswritersinc) published a good essay by Steve Almond about reading submissions for programs [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

If you can visit the school before you go, oh do it! Chat up current students. See how the profs interact with them. Visit a class! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: Amazing writers visit campus for Writer’s Speak Wednesdays. The bad news: what to do the other six days of the week [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Program director [~~@~~**todgoldberg**](https://twitter.com/todgoldberg) talks about genre writing and why MFA programs are scared of it [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) : [http://palmdesertmfa.ucr.edu/blog/wanted-the-greatest-criminal-minds-of-our-time/ …](https://t.co/sxAxoOZ9ya)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

More advice: if you're applying straight from undergrad & want to maximize time, consider funded MA programs to prep for MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

It's a different degree--not terminal--but gives you time to hone your craft, experiment with different kinds of writing, read, &c. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

Funded MAs also usually require/include more lit classes, rhet comp, etc. than MFAs--helps you succeed in those classes during MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

For example, two of our recent MA grads, went on to strong MFAs, and entered PhD programs just this year. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

If you can, talk to students who attend a program! Check out our Campus Visit Video Series [http://bit.ly/1RKTK89](https://t.co/Ur4P89L1UE) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

In these videos, students discuss life at their creative writing programs. [http://bit.ly/1RKTK89](https://t.co/Ur4P89L1UE) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

There are videos featuring residential and low-residency programs, as well as an immersive semester program [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)**Jason Gray** ‏~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)

.[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Don’t be afraid to ask current students questions about life in the program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

Be sure to talk to current students and graduates of a program. Also, ask to speak to various faculty. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/RBrowningWhite)**Rhonda BrowningWhite** ‏~~@~~**RBrowningWhite**](https://twitter.com/RBrowningWhite)

I vetted programs for two years before applying [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA), and I couldn't have made a better choice! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom)**Gabrielle Freeman** ‏~~@~~**TheLadyRandom**](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom)

Completing the [~~#~~**mfa**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfa?src=hash) through [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) was the best thing I've ever done for myself. Ask away! [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) Yes, always ask to speak to students in the program & recent grads before deciding.

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) [~~@~~**TheLadyRandom**](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom) [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) Yes, yes, yes. Talk to current students & alumni & faculty, by PHONE if possible. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

And see if you can hang out and even stay with them when you visit--get to know the place [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters) does a visiting day for admitted students. Very helpful for them to make a good choice. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Application tips from us: Writing sample is most important. Statement of purpose is also a writing sample. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) (1/3)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Ref letters with knowledge, specifics>letters from famous writers you met once. Most letters glow; we do look for red flags. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) (2/3)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Don't care tons about grades, but our dept. cares some. Don't care about GRE scores (can waive low ones), but must have them. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) (3/3)

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

How effective is interfolio? As in ease for me and my references. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) It's an awesome service: kudos to any program that uses it.

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Super easy! We actually transitioned away from dossier svcs because they were leaders in the market--for a reason. [~~#~~**AWPChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWPChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

WHEN did you decide that you wanted to attend an MFA program? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) i ([~~@~~**CandaceErosDiaz**](https://twitter.com/CandaceErosDiaz)) made other ppls dreams come true instead of mine for 10 yrs after UG. i couldn't w8 any longer [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) As an undergrad. But I also decided I wanted to be out of school for three years before I attended. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/emslun)**Emily Lundgren** ‏~~@~~**emslun**](https://twitter.com/emslun)

I'm a 1st yr [~~@~~**NEOMFA**](https://twitter.com/NEOMFA)'er - cannot stress how welcoming the wrkshp environment is! My research for a constructive wrkshp checked out. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Flexible: Our program combines workshops with forms and literature classes. You do not have to specify a genre when you apply. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Also keep in mind your resources. My stipend went a lot less far in NOVA than my friends' similar stipends did in AZ. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I think my best advice is just listen to [~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)! [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

If I were applying now I'd talk to more students who came from the program to get specifics abt their experiences. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

As well as what the residency focus covers/where it focuses, i.e. Craft v lit review etc [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BlakeKimzey)**Blake Kimzey** ‏~~@~~**BlakeKimzey**](https://twitter.com/BlakeKimzey)

Get an MFA to become a better writer (all that time!) not so you can be an adjunct after you graduate. Focus on your writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

“[~~@~~**BlakeKimzey**](https://twitter.com/BlakeKimzey): Get an MFA to become a better writer " Yes, but also to become a more professional writer and develop job skills. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Have an outlet that has nothing to do with writing. You'll become emotionally and mentally exhausted during the program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Consider location! At GMU, my peers were spread out. I have friends on smaller campuses that are physically closer to their peers. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

Specifically the amount and quality of interaction between residencies (for low red) and amy and quality of feedback on writing [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

I'm biased, but I working on a [~~#~~**litmag**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/litmag?src=hash) was one of the most beneficial things about my MFA program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) this is so helpful for students. Let's them see how submissions really work and why work doesn't get published.

[[](https://twitter.com/jeannetteronson)**Jeannette Ronson** ‏~~@~~**jeannetteronson**](https://twitter.com/jeannetteronson)

Working on [~~@~~**PYJournal**](https://twitter.com/PYJournal) - my MFA's literary magazine - has opened up new doors for me. Work in yours! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

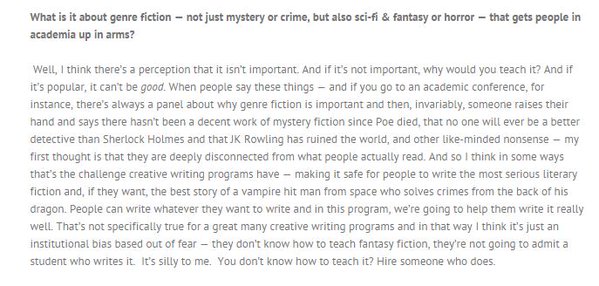
Don't think your sample needs to be perfect/publishable, just representative of your voice. Faculty want writers they can teach [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

It's important to figure out YOUR priorities before applying to MFA programs. Then see which programs best match your interests. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Writing genre fiction and getting rejected? It's probably because of this [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash):



[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

What are your thoughts on a two-year vs. three-year MFA? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda) I thought, back then, I'd want a quick return to "real life" so I chose two. But I'm still here! Depends on funding, family, etc.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda) KENNY, I'm SO GLAD YOU ASKED.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I had some friends at 2-year programs who wished they had more time. But 2 years might be enough for you! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

GMU is a 3-year program, and I definitely appreciated the time. I spent my whole third year writing a MS. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

Time is on your side. Take it! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)**Jason Gray** ‏~~@~~**jasonmgray**](https://twitter.com/jasonmgray)

Jason Gray Retweeted UsyBoroda

When I was at Ohio St, at the start, three years seemed long, at the end, not long enough. Take the time. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)**Katie Schmid** ‏~~@~~**kt\_schmid**](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)

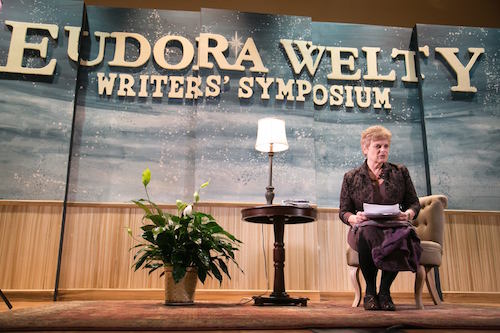
Really know your goals: the studio degree is VERY different than an MFA that functions as a lit degree with a creative thesis [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/WritersCramp1)**Writer's Cramp** ‏~~@~~**WritersCramp1**](https://twitter.com/WritersCramp1)

While you figure out your MFA plans, take a look at [~~@~~**LitReactor**](https://twitter.com/LitReactor) and its classes. Affordable, targeted writing help. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) And an established literary event - The Welty Symposium [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**TheW**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheW?src=hash) [~~#~~**lowresmfa**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/lowresmfa?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I used the old [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Guide to Writing Programs to look for places. I hear it's improved since 2010/2011. ;) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I looked at every program in the states I was willing to live in, looked at funding & other resources, and went from there. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)**Katie Schmid** ‏~~@~~**kt\_schmid**](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)

inquire about support/job opportunities during the summer. it's NOT WORTH taking out loans to support yourself. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**kt\_schmid**](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid) MFA at [~~@~~**WUSTL**](https://twitter.com/WUSTL) has provided summer funding between first and second years. Other programs may as well and you can ask [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

NB: lots of MFA programs aren't very competitive. If all your classmates are Great! Writers! maybe you're not a good reader. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)**Meagan Arthur** ‏~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur)

If you are participating in [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) and are representing a fully funded program, give a shout! [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/VirginiaTechCW)**VT Creative Writing** ‏~~@~~**VirginiaTechCW**](https://twitter.com/VirginiaTechCW)

[~~@~~**meaganearthur**](https://twitter.com/meaganearthur) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) VT is fully funded! 16k per year for all students!

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: we’re a family. The bad news: you can never leave. Even after you graduate. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/longdaypress)**Long Day Press** ‏~~@~~**longdaypress**](https://twitter.com/longdaypress)

A lot of great advice is coming from [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)'s [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) discussion.

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Our program is designed for adults who want to go part time but are also very serious about their work.

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Also: \*sometimes\* high grades and/or high GRE scores allow us to locate additional funding for you, on top of our regular package. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

We asked [~~@~~**JaneFriedman**](https://twitter.com/JaneFriedman) what BFA programs could be doing to prepare students for MFA life and after. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [http://tinyurl.com/lk2nql9](https://t.co/q85vTvXfSp)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

1/2 [~~@~~**janeFriedman**](https://twitter.com/JaneFriedman): [They should help] students better understand the economics of the writing life... [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2 [~~@~~**JaneFriedman**](https://twitter.com/JaneFriedman): ...and how authors or artists do manage to put together a full-time living from doing what they love. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) thought: don't go into an MA or MFA until you have a project that interests you so much you are not afraid to write the whole thing

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) This is excellent advice. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

[~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover) thank you! Given as question since, maybe, sometimes one can see no other way forward in life but MFA!

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) A good point. Going into an MFA with a book idea vs. without is a "Good for you, not for me" thing (thank you, Amy Poehler).

[[](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)**Lydia Pudzianowski** ‏~~@~~**DoritosHangover**](https://twitter.com/DoritosHangover)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) Essentially, do what you need to do. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) Perfect advice! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~#~~**TheW**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheW?src=hash) [~~#~~**lowresmfa**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/lowresmfa?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

We give our students a competitive advantage in the real world -- everyone who graduates is read by top agents/publishers/studios [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Not some of the students. Not a couple select people. No, all of our students get read by the agents/publishers/studios. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

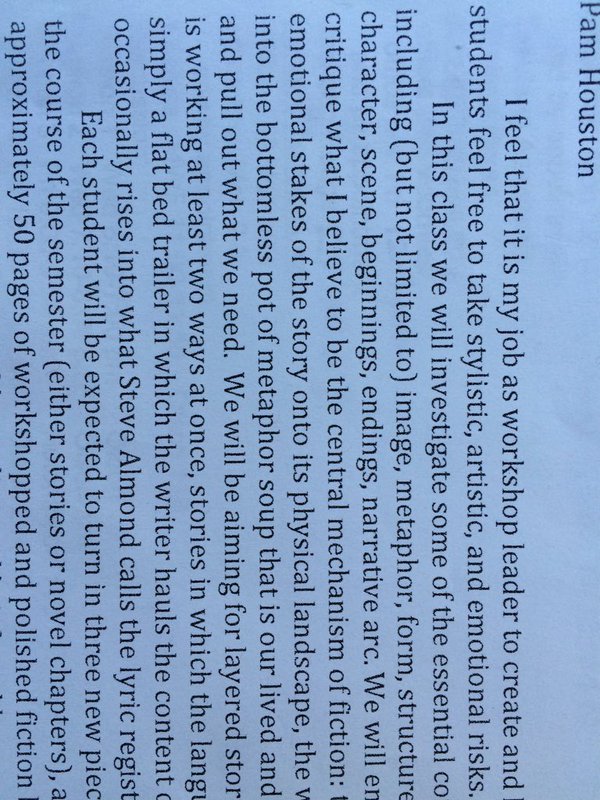
LT [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) program as exploration V program as acceleration. Or is that an MFA v NYC question? \*wink\*

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) An ideal program might allow both sorts of students to flourish [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) 2nd that: one may switch from one mode to the other mid-program. Stylistic, artistic emotional risks:



[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I tell undergrads, before an MFA program, try summer/weekend workshops and develop as a writer. MFA when you're ready.

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

Do other MFA programs have a teaching training component & emphasis? I'd like to swap course notes & thoughts. Pros/cons. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**UVic**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/UVic?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) we do. you can find out a bit more here: [http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfa-in-creative-writing/prospective-students/funding/teaching-fellowships …](https://t.co/CkQtLfON8J) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

[~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa) Thanks!

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) We do. Emphasis on teaching outside of academia.Students do internships in prisons,shelters,senior centers, hospitals [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

[~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) That sounds like great community engagement. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) [~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) we offer Workshopping the Workshop pedgog class on running wksps in and out of academe. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/wordamour)**Steph Vanderslice** ‏~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) ours [~~@~~**ARWritersMFA**](https://twitter.com/ARWritersMFA) does.

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

[~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour) [~~@~~**ARWritersMFA**](https://twitter.com/ARWritersMFA) Thanks! WIll follow up....

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) offers a Rhet/Comp pedog class and we do a 1 day conf on how to get adjunct work, write a CV, etc. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) we also bring in 1st year writing dir who do hiring so students know what to expect. Our alums work all over!

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

[~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro) [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) Thanks! I like the conference idea....

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

Yep, Stony Brook Southampton has grueling teaching practicum. I know b/c I teach it. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kimannjosouth)**kimWICKedwitch** ‏~~@~~**kimannjosouth**](https://twitter.com/kimannjosouth)

Anyone interested in applying to a CW PhD program post MFA[/MA] this year, let me know! I love mine. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

I was considering an MPhil degree from European programs. Is this degree much less prestigious than an MFA? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JOD45)**John O'Donoghue** ‏~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Although publication is still seen as being a good equivalent to MFA, MA, MPhil, PhD.... /3

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

[~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45) I really like the programs and faculty at Trinity and Cork, but I didn't know how they translated on the American Market.

[[](https://twitter.com/JOD45)**John O'Donoghue** ‏~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Me neither - but I should think there'd be Irish-friendly Am universities - round Boston, Chicago, New York? - which would -

[[](https://twitter.com/JOD45)**John O'Donoghue** ‏~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) MPhils are - you probably know - one down from DPhils or PhDs. TCD (Dublin) run a program, as do other unis. A good degree/1

[[](https://twitter.com/JOD45)**John O'Donoghue** ‏~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) ... rate TCD in particular? Check out also Limerick - Joe O'Connor is running the MA there and he is tip top.

[[](https://twitter.com/JOD45)**John O'Donoghue** ‏~~@~~**JOD45**](https://twitter.com/JOD45)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) I think Europeans might look down slightly on the MFA. The MA and PhD are often the terminal degrees that matter... /2

[[](https://twitter.com/wordamour)**Steph Vanderslice** ‏~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Just different. Message me what programs you're considering, some are quite helpful esp if you're interested in publishing.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

If you have a partner coming with you, the location can also dictate their ability to get a job. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I was lucky that my husband ([~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)) ended up getting a job at [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)! [~~#~~**fulldisclosure**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/fulldisclosure?src=hash) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

1/2: [~~@~~**LauraKasischke**](https://twitter.com/laurakasischke): “I couldn’t have become a writer if I hadn’t studied with X, met X...been encouraged by \_\_.” [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2: [~~@~~**LauraKasischke**](https://twitter.com/laurakasischke): “The blanks, I’m sure, could be filled with anything as long as they do not remain blank.” [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

At K-State, almost all of our MA students get funding, teaching experience, and teaching training, along with health insurance. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

Rather than denouncing genre fiction (SF, crime etc.) instructors should just acknowledge they're not competent to teach it. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Profs need to be open to all genres. Not my business to tell you what to be passionate about, just help you write better.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**nmamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) re: genre fiction [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) We've had some good discussions in our new program about genre writing. We're open if also literary.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

[~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) I think I really lucked out here. My program was one of few with lots of experimental and genre/"genre bending" teachers [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jlikesbooks)**SpookySamhainSpectre** ‏~~@~~**jlikesbooks**](https://twitter.com/jlikesbooks)

[~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln) which one did you attend, by the by?

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

[~~@~~**jlikesbooks**](https://twitter.com/jlikesbooks) [~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln) Yes, which did you attend? I bet that's the info people following [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) would like to know.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

.[~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) [~~@~~**jlikesbooks**](https://twitter.com/jlikesbooks) Columbia. At time, we had Kelly Link, Ben Marcus, Victor LaValle, etc. Still leaned "lit fic", but was very open

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

[~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) [~~@~~**jlikesbooks**](https://twitter.com/jlikesbooks) And glancing at the current faculty, it's still that way.

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) AWP's Mentorship Program, Writer to Writer: [http://tinyurl.com/pjtpcrt](https://t.co/tTArxWtNin) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)

On the Creative Writing MA [~~@~~**EdinburghNapier**](https://twitter.com/EdinburghNapier) in Scotland we specialise in genre fiction, [~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) - SF, fantasy, mystery, horror [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

Or get with the program and the reading public, [~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas). I read a lot more literary genre work because of students' interest. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) Yeah, get competent. But it can take a while—a few cohorts can march through a program by the time teachers are up to speed.

[[](https://twitter.com/elissafield)**Elissa Field** ‏~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) successful 21st c fiction is often crossover btwn lit & genre. Any programs better for this? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

[~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield) [~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Always check the faculty. Them that does, may teach.

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield) [~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas) Well, [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) has a new YA track.And this is why I recommend reading faculty books.

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

Liking this [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) trajectories so far. Keep them coming, people!

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: visiting professors of poetry like Mark Doty, Martin Espada, Matthea Harvey. The bad news: letting go. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

An important thing when considering a low residency: is there a day where there's all you can eat ice cream? We have that. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) We're getting requests from international students. Would love to hear from other low-res programs about visa regulations.

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

Work w/faculty,agents,book& journal editors,visiting writers. Plus internships, TA spots.Our low res focuses on professional writer [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

How much does institutional location shape MFA experience? [~~#~~**UVic**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/UVic?src=hash) is in Fine Arts Faculty vs. English Dept/Humanities Faculty. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) A little esoteric for applicants, but this matters. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Creative writing PhDs are very different beasts from MFAs. It's best to get an MFA first. You'll be far more prepared. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)**Katie Schmid** ‏~~@~~**kt\_schmid**](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid)

the MFA makes u look like a strange bird outside of academia. think abt how u can spin yr skills to future non-academic employers [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

[~~@~~**kt\_schmid**](https://twitter.com/kt_schmid) This is super important. We try to teach a bit of life skills, too -- so that people know how to get a real job, too. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/GIGANTICsequins)**gigantic sequins** ‏~~@~~**GIGANTICsequins**](https://twitter.com/GIGANTICsequins)

We are following along with the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) right now! How many GS eds have an MFA? 3! 2 w/ MAs.

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: fiction faculty Ursula Hegi, Susan Scarf Merrell, Melissa Bank. The bad news: a surfeit of attention. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)**New School Writing** ‏~~@~~**NewSchoolWrites**](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)

Our courses meet on weeknights from 8:00-10:00pm, with optional weekend courses. We train working writers. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) is making my heart ache with its loveliness & my own sense of longing to do an MFA in writing. You're all wonderful.

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) I can tell that you will excel wherever you land with such an open attitude!

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) Thank you! Not sure an MFA is in the cards due to finances/location, but it's still my dream. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) Try part time low-res. Location less relevant, though it helps if travel costs are low. (We're in MS). Low tuition.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Thank you! I've definitely looked into such options, but undergrad debt & chronic illness have limited my options. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) I understand. Best of luck to you! Also consider non-degree options like workshops and conferences. Many have scholarships.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Definitely! I've only recently reignited my original passion for the craft, so am exploring furtively at this point. Thank you!

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Had resigned myself to a life of professional & tech writing (& very successful/pleasant career), but I want to do more. 

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) Nothing wrong with professional and tech writing, but it's great to combine with your passion for literature.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Absolutely. I love my career & that it opened so many doors for me, & can now freelance. Now I want to stoke the creative fire!

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) Our program can be done part-time with as few as 3 hours per semester (takes 6 years). Look for one that fits your needs.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) Or look for a writing community outside of academia if you don't need the degree. There are other ways to be a writer.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) I'll definitely explore your program more. At this point, 6yrs is nothing to finish, ha. & Agree completely w/other communities!

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) Yes, and if you find something nearer to home, you should go for it. I've discussed our program because it's what I know.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Your input has been very helpful, and much appreciated. Not everyone takes the time to give such thoughtful advice.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**jennifermwolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff) Thanks. I try… Did you see our Guide for Applicants? [http://www.muw.edu/images/colleges/as/llp/MFAGuideForApplicants.pdf …](https://t.co/r8Sx4XiQIR) I put it together using some blog posts.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Brilliant! Thank you! You & [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) have done so much for me today. A bounty of wonderful resources.

[[](https://twitter.com/emslun)**Emily Lundgren** ‏~~@~~**emslun**](https://twitter.com/emslun)

Also [~~@~~**NEOMFA**](https://twitter.com/NEOMFA) (especially the YSU gateway with [~~@~~**Cbarzak**](https://twitter.com/Cbarzak)) has shown to be a welcoming space for sci-fi/fantasy/genre writers! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)**Annie Frazier** ‏~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)

Low Res is a great option for those who can't relocate. Loving [~~@~~**spalding\_mfa**](https://twitter.com/spalding_mfa) to bits so far! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

“[~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie): Low Res is a great option for those who can't relocate." [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) I advise if you can relocate, do; if not, the low-res.

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie) Low- and no-res an excellent option if you can't relocate.We are online with a summer intensive in Ireland. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**

[~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) [~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie) Can I do this and Rome?! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**TheW**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheW?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2) [~~@~~**baypathmfacnf**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) [~~@~~**bijouannie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie) Are you asking me? We accept 6 hours of transfer credit. Let's look into it, if you want to.

[[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)

[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) [~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie) You know me - it's the experience not the credit that I care about! Now, where to find the money...

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

Fun fact: for .5 time teaching appointment [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) we get paid ~$18K for 10 months, == ~$1800 a month. How does yr funding compare? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

[~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) roughly similar to how it is here at UMD.

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

[~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion) Interesting! I did my BA [~~@~~**merrillcollege**](https://twitter.com/merrillcollege), and loved UMD. Cost of living is roughly 14% higher in College Park, tho [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

[~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion) (For reference: [http://www.bestplaces.net/cost-of-living/iowa-city-ia/college-park-md/18000 …](https://t.co/NVVd8sbxKu)) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

[~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) why, yes. The rent in CP is nuts, and it's even crazier when you commute from DC like I do. Probs the only downfall. ):

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

[~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion) Blergh. DC is fun, though. How do you like CP? How's the program? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

[~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) and there's always reading here, there, & everywhere, even one tailored for students

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

[~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) yep, the city is fun. It's just the rent that is not. The MFA life's great here, supportive profs & quirky classmates & all

[[](https://twitter.com/merrillcollege)**Merrill College @UMD** ‏~~@~~**merrillcollege**](https://twitter.com/merrillcollege)

[~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) [~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion) Great to count you as a [~~@~~**merrillcollege**](https://twitter.com/merrillcollege) grad, Brittany!

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Other important questions about low res MFAs: Do you have to share a bathroom? Are the beds gross? What's the situation with tics? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA) And ticks.

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

[~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) See? We don't even know how to spell ticks, that's how few we get.

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA) If you spell it, they will come.

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

To answer: No! You're staying at a resort! No! You're staying at a resort! No! You need to worry about sunburn. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

The whole "go to an M.F.A. program only when you have a book you want to write" thing has never made much sense to me either. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

1. The book I would've started when I began my M.F.A. is very different (read: worse) than the one I'm writing now. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

2. If you already have a book idea, why not...just...write...it? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) A good teacher/program will shortcut you through the learning process, will teach what you don't know you don't know. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Matt_Matros)**Matt Matros** ‏~~@~~**Matt\_Matros**](https://twitter.com/Matt_Matros)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) MFAs are much more about craft than about generating ideas. But of course anyone who wants to write a book should!

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

3. Imagining you need to have a ride-or-die, capital-I Idea in order to deserve a shot at an M.F.A. may mean you never even apply. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

4. You'll learn in ways you can't foresee. My work got better when I started trusting that process. And letting myself fuck up, too [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) I don't think most people do, yet I frequ. encountered this advice. Maybe "go only if" advice should not be so black&white.

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan) this — "go only ifs" are nonsense. Except where funding is concerned. That's the one "go only if" I whole-heartedly believe.

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) Esp if (as happens), once in program, your book idea evaporates; you find other form, genre, project more compelling. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) I've actually heard this argument more and more lately. It's an interesting response to what the programs are for.

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) Like saying learn to play the guitar only when you have a song to write. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Jo_Hoff)**Johannes Hoffmann** ‏~~@~~**Jo\_Hoff**](https://twitter.com/Jo_Hoff)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) that's right only study architecture if you know what building you want to design, makes no sense

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

THIS. I didn't figure out what kind of writer I wanted to be (/was) until halfway through my MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)**Dahlia Seroussi** ‏~~@~~**DahliaSeroussi**](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) TOTALLY. Went into my MFA with one vision, came out with another. Grateful for change, growth, and possibility. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

What happened to that MFA ranking based on graduate placement in BASS/Pushcart/etc.? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/brandimwells)**Brandi Wells** ‏~~@~~**brandimwells**](https://twitter.com/brandimwells)

shout out to Alabama (tuscaloosa) where i got my mfa and was funded four years. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)**TP** ‏~~@~~**thranduilion**](https://twitter.com/thranduilion)

Most likely will do a third year here. I applied to work with a writer I look up to, not just to graduate with another degree. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) One of our New Media projects was a GeoPoem started on Google Maps and written on Twitter. [http://kendalldunkelberg.com/2015/10/16/a-geopoem-project-in-columbus-ms/ …](https://t.co/kOSYeBA7HE)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

Often students stay on in STL a few years after the MFA. Think about if the place you're going might be a place you might stay [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

AWP’s annual conference is a great place to learn more about creative writing programs! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

There are several panels at our [~~#~~**AWP16**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP16?src=hash) that discuss MFA programs [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda) Patricia McCormick, [~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters) faculty doing panel on innovations in kid lit at [~~#~~**AWP**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP?src=hash). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda) [~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters) Also check out current student [~~@~~**AHBonenberger**](https://twitter.com/AHBonenberger) on war memoir at [~~#~~**AWP**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP?src=hash) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

“The Meaning of Every(MFA)thing: Program Directors Tell All” [http://bit.ly/1Sk6JyA](https://t.co/4ItmmPiCAF) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**AWP16**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP16?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

“Full-Residency, Low-Residency, Online: The MFA Student and Faculty Experience” [http://bit.ly/1Q6WYEM](https://t.co/Zb7GWh8VVB) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

Our annual conference is also an opportunity to meet faculty, students, and alumni from schools you are interested in. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/AmyfStuart)**Amy Stuart** ‏~~@~~**AmyfStuart**](https://twitter.com/AmyfStuart)

The [~~@~~**ubccrwr**](https://twitter.com/ubccrwr) optional residency MFA produces a huge # of published writers. Distinguished faculty, rigorous courses [~~@~~**UBC**](https://twitter.com/UBC) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)**Annie Frazier** ‏~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)

VISIT before applying. Ask students as many detailed questions as possible. Talk to faculty (but, you know, be cool about it). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

we recently partnered w [~~@~~**kearnystreet**](https://twitter.com/kearnystreet) & [~~@~~**writehedgebrook**](https://twitter.com/writehedgebrook) to offer new community sponsored scholarships [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**kearnystreet**](https://twitter.com/kearnystreet) [~~@~~**writehedgebrook**](https://twitter.com/writehedgebrook) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) more details here: [http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfa-in-creative-writing/prospective-students/funding/scholarships-0 …](https://t.co/5MwolmQyFf) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

I have lots of thoughts re: [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). When deciding btwn offers, look for relatively equal funding among students--positive community.

[[](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)**Silas Hansen** ‏~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen)

You want readers/classmates who will be supportive of your accomplishments--not ones who see you as competition for better funding. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar)**Holly Vanderhaar** ‏~~@~~**HollyVanderhaar**](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar)

[~~@~~**silas\_hansen**](https://twitter.com/silas_hansen) CO-SIGNED. It makes a huge difference in morale when you're not fighting over basic funding. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi) [3m3 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi/status/661629569187708928)

Brittany Borghi Retweeted Iowa Admissions

PLUS, LOOK AT IT. [~~#~~**beauty**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/beauty?src=hash) [~~#~~**midwestisbest**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/midwestisbest?src=hash) [~~#~~**IowaBrag**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/IowaBrag?src=hash) [~~#~~**midwest**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/midwest?src=hash) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~#~~**nonficnov**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/nonficnov?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) [~~@~~**UIowaCLAS**](https://twitter.com/UIowaCLAS)



**Iowa Admissions** @IowaAdmissions

Hope everyone is enjoying this perfect fall day in downtown Iowa City! 

[[](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)**David Leach** ‏~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter)

Are there [~~#~~**MFA**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFA?src=hash) programs that teach / integrate digital impact on creative writing, interactive writing, hyperlit, etc.? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**leachwriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) Yes. Ours has a class. Rochester Institute of Technology is proposing one focused on digital lit. I've heard of others.

[[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)

[~~@~~**LeachWriter**](https://twitter.com/LeachWriter) I am doing that this semester in Writing for New Media! [~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~#~~**TheW**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheW?src=hash) [~~#~~**lowresmfa**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/lowresmfa?src=hash) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Having a supportive community is essential for graduate creative writing programs. See what the community is like before you apply. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/me_macfarland)**Matthew MacFarland** ‏~~@~~**me\_macfarland**](https://twitter.com/me_macfarland)

Do not take on debt to get an MFA. Do not take on debt to get an MFA. Do not take on debt to get an MFA. Sideways-8. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Matt_Matros)**Matt Matros** ‏~~@~~**Matt\_Matros**](https://twitter.com/Matt_Matros)

I did, but then I started playing more poker... [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/WritersCramp1)**Writer's Cramp** ‏~~@~~**WritersCramp1**](https://twitter.com/WritersCramp1)

And [~~@~~**LitReactor**](https://twitter.com/LitReactor) has writer/instructors/professionals you can't find at any school, plus peer reviews that trump the avg. MFA class [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert)**Peter Kispert** ‏~~@~~**PeterKispert**](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert)

I know a LOT of writers who openly regret going for their MFA. A lot. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/elissafield)**Elissa Field** ‏~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield)

[~~@~~**PeterKispert**](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert) Peter, why? Time lost? Cost? Corrupted focus? Not the outcome they wanted? I'm curious. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield) [~~@~~**PeterKispert**](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert) A few of my friends went straight from a BA in CW to an MFA. They're a little burnt out. It's amazing but tiring

[[](https://twitter.com/elissafield)**Elissa Field** ‏~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) There's something to be said for getting out and living/writing on your own between bach & masters. Find ur next need. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/wordamour)**Steph Vanderslice** ‏~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour)

[~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) Agree, even though I didn't and it worked out for me. That was 25 years ago though. If I had it to do over though-

[[](https://twitter.com/elissafield)**Elissa Field** ‏~~@~~**elissafield**](https://twitter.com/elissafield)

[~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) All diff right? I wasn't ready ideawise to write strt fr BA. Found voice, pract'd novel, more ready for MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: fine-tune your work during our summer conference in the Hamptons. The bad news: you can’t stay all summer [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Consider cost of living. $$$ is a huge stress already w/o worrying about being a grad student. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Talk to students about what it's like at their program. Do they actually have time to write? Do they feel supported? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I've heard more than one story about writers who end up feeling like they're just by themselves writing. Not the MFA-goal, I’d say. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) This makes me very sad. Nooooooo! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) and also, what is life like on campus, in town. Is there a scene beyond the university. Reading series off campus? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) speaking of reading series-ours is on fire this yr to celebrate our 20th: [http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/mfa-in-creative-writing/creative-writing-reading-series …](https://t.co/b9LIR7rGn5) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert)**Peter Kispert** ‏~~@~~**PeterKispert**](https://twitter.com/PeterKispert)

Guess where else you can find talented peers to help you w your writing? Online. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

The big thing: get an MFA because you NEED it, not because you want it. You have to need the instruction, need the transformation. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)**JohnCabot University** ‏~~@~~**JohnCabotRome**](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)

If your MFA program accepts transfer credit, try studying abroad in Rome, grad-style. [http://ow.ly/UcHGI](https://t.co/9SXMeZ453k) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)**Tammie Rice** ‏~~@~~**tlrice2**](https://twitter.com/tlrice2)

[~~@~~**JohnCabotRome**](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome) I can be back there in about 16 hours! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~#~~**TheW**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheW?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Does the program you're applying to let MFA/MA students teach more than comp? Because they should. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Call and talk to the program director. See if you like them. It's important. That's the person whose philosophy guides the program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Pro-tip: don't call the program director at home, however, if you find their # online. Just, you know, from experience. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA) Excellent advice.DO call the program director & ask about his/her teaching philosophy. Most are very happy to share it. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

My biggest concern when applying was finding instructors that were receptive to the kind of writing I like. Research your profs. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

I'd actually talk to them on the phone, if possible, [~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) Definitely! My current instructor actually called me. I'm with the program I''m in now. Took a little while, but I'm here.

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

[~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso) That's great, Chris. Hope it's a good fit!

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt) Thank you! I appreciate the well wishes

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

I'm very happy where I'm at now. I'm happy that my instructor and colleagues are supportive and encouraging and as dorky as me. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

A graduate program is only the beginning, not the end all and be all, of a writing life. When it's over you'll ask "Now what?" [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jeannetteronson)**Jeannette Ronson** ‏~~@~~**jeannetteronson**](https://twitter.com/jeannetteronson)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) The MFA program is only the beginning. You can be totally changed from it IF you put the work into writing.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

“[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye): A graduate program is only the beginning" [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) It should be the launchpad for a writing life (or booster rocket), not the end.

[[](https://twitter.com/wordamour)**Steph Vanderslice** ‏~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour)

Answered by [~~@~~**FairfieldUMFA**](https://twitter.com/FairfieldUMFA) book of the same name. [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Noted! [~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour) [~~@~~**FairfieldUMFA**](https://twitter.com/FairfieldUMFA) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [http://www.fairfield.edu/academics/schoolscollegescenters/collegeofartssciences/graduateprograms/mfaincreativewriting/lifeafterthemfa/ …](https://t.co/i25DRdbAl8)

[[](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)**New School Writing** ‏~~@~~**NewSchoolWrites**](https://twitter.com/NewSchoolWrites)

MFA Dir. [~~@~~**LuisRJaramillo**](https://twitter.com/LuisRJaramillo) + faculty [~~@~~**easyreeder**](https://twitter.com/easyreeder) teach the Writing & Publishing Lab, training students on emerging digital media. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Once at the MFA, immerse yourself in the writing community. Go to readings! Work for your MFA's lit mag! Don't be apathetic! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) excellent advice! To be a part of the community you have to engage--it won't come to you! Network! [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA)

[[](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)**JohnCabot University** ‏~~@~~**JohnCabotRome**](https://twitter.com/JohnCabotRome)

Our visiting CW grad students this summer will get to work with our Writer in Residence, Susan Minot. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) What do you love most about your MFA? For me, the answer is our students: already doing great work & their interactions are great.

[[](https://twitter.com/karriehiggins)**Karrie Higgins** ‏~~@~~**karriehiggins**](https://twitter.com/karriehiggins)

If you have a disability, be aware of accessibility issues & ableism in MFA programs. It's a rampant problem. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

Here's some [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) real talk: don't underestimate the value of location, especially NYC. I'll get flack for that, but it's true.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

.[~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln) and not (just) because of "connections," but also being immersed in a writing community outside of the MFA bubble. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jaimealyse)**Jaime Green** ‏~~@~~**jaimealyse**](https://twitter.com/jaimealyse)

Agreed. It's a big trade-off against a funded program, but it can be worth it. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jaimealyse)**Jaime Green** ‏~~@~~**jaimealyse**](https://twitter.com/jaimealyse)

[~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln) on the other hand, an intense program can give you barely time to breathe, let alone get out to readings & events [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**jaimealyse**](https://twitter.com/jaimealyse) [~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln) True, true [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Sometimes it can be difficult to find programs (esp. MFAs) that allow hybrid/cross-genre work. Reach out to faculty and ask! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

.[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) So glad to hear other programs allow hybrid work! At [~~#~~**KU**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KU?src=hash) it is definitely permitted, for both the MFA and PhD. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

“[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves): Sometimes it can be difficult to find programs that allow hybrid/cross-genre work." [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) We allow cross/mixed theses.

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) true. i ([~~@~~**CandaceErosDiaz**](https://twitter.com/CandaceErosDiaz)) am a cross-genre writer & found a safe, nurturing place [~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa). [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**

[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) hybrid work shouldn't just be permitted, it should be encouraged! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

[~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop) [~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) yay! We are just starting a Centre for New and Experimental Writing that will totally encourage it [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

[~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop) Oh, it is! We have faculty who engage in hybrid forms, and the program offers a mixed forms workshop! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~#~~**KU**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KU?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves) same at [~~@~~**SBSouthampton**](https://twitter.com/SBSouthampton) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

I also tend to think, the big coastal cities are tough--so much going on, distractions, etc. Not to disparage! Just a thought [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

On faculty/fellow students: 1/2 [~~@~~**powell\_DA**](https://twitter.com/Powell_DA) says to think of the [MFA] years as barrel years..." [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2 [~~@~~**powell\_DA**](https://twitter.com/Powell_DA): …Whatever poets have stained the inside of the barrels will influence whatever else is to come.” [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**Winereference**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Winereference?src=hash)!

[[](https://twitter.com/AmyfStuart)**Amy Stuart** ‏~~@~~**AmyfStuart**](https://twitter.com/AmyfStuart)

I began [~~@~~**ubccrwr**](https://twitter.com/ubccrwr) MFA w a small portfolio & graduated w 2 published stories, a novel draft, an agent & a great community [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/LucasWMann)**Lucas Mann** ‏~~@~~**LucasWMann**](https://twitter.com/LucasWMann)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) If you can get funding, then go. If you can get funding for three years somewhere, take the extra year. Try to be nice to yourself.

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

My MFA program was ideal because of the students there--profs were great, but the community of students really made the difference. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

I say reach out to current students to find out about experiences in terms of community, post-workshop gatherings, etc. [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)

Creative MA [~~@~~**EdinburghNapier**](https://twitter.com/EdinburghNapier) in UK building partnerships with like-minded US MFA programs toward student/credit swaps [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

I had a 3.0 GPA in undergrad, but feel it's not a great representation of my work. Is there hope for me? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Yes. GPA is not a great indicator of your talent as a writer. Your writing sample, however, is. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Atypeofwriter)**William L. Domme** ‏~~@~~**Atypeofwriter**](https://twitter.com/Atypeofwriter)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) So do I need a BA or can I just submit past work in the application?

[[](https://twitter.com/wordamour)**Steph Vanderslice** ‏~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour)

[~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) [~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) Although if your GPA is poor in writing courses, that is usually a red flag.

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

[~~@~~**wordamour**](https://twitter.com/wordamour) [~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook) good to know. It was math that brought me down. It always is.

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) What truly matters when applying to MFA programs is the writing sample. It is THE MOST important thing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

If your writing sample shows real promise, I wouldn't worry about a 3.0. [~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) Yes! Our limit is 3.0, but we have provisionally admitted students with lower. Writing and work post-BA help.

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

If it all works out, you'll end up a MASTER of the FINE ARTS. (Disclosure: cats can't get MFAs.) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)**Paige Sullivan** ‏~~@~~**BPaigeSullivan**](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)

I def agree that seeking out funding, a teaching position, and chances to work on publications are what make an MFA worthwhile. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**SouthamptonRevi**](https://twitter.com/SouthamptonRevi) [~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters) we offer lit mag & opportunity to teach undergrad cr wrting [~~@~~**stonybrooku**](https://twitter.com/stonybrooku) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

Some good advice coming through [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). Cosign on fully-funded programs, not straight after undergrad, & life beyond the MFA.

[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

Other things to know: you may not want to teach after. Name recognition of faculty is irrelevant. Good teachers may be new to you. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin) When researching faculty, some names were new. I talked to them, read their work, asked students & alum about them [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

[~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo) Yes, talking to students & alum is key. I learned that some faculty whose work I adored weren't accessible to students.

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

(1) Location may be important, but your commitment to furthering your craft is paramount. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

(2) In today's virtual world, you're only limited by your own efforts (or lack thereof). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

You will likely not be making $100ks post-MFA. It's the rewards of active discussion, care, and community that you'll reap. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

I now have dear friends in these states: Washington, Arizona, New Mexico, New Jersey, California, Utah, Minnesota, & even Alaska! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)**Max Rubin** ‏~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)

Beyond funding, faculty, and programming, I've benefitted from being in a community of writers unparalleled anywhere in the country [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin) Right. Your MFA classmates (and to some degree, faculty) form the bedrock of your post-MFA [~~#~~**writing**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/writing?src=hash) community. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)**Max Rubin** ‏~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)

[~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo) definitely. Can't imagine a stronger group of readers.

[[](https://twitter.com/brainbliss)**Bryan Bliss** ‏~~@~~**brainbliss**](https://twitter.com/brainbliss)

If you're looking for a great MFA program, may I suggest Seattle Pacific. I can't even explain the difference it made to my writing [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase)**Doug Paul Case** ‏~~@~~**dougpaulcase**](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase)

Literally the only reasons you need an MFA are time and to have teaching credentials should your book do well enough for a TT job. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**dougpaulcase**](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase) Reason for MFA: not teaching creds, but writing creds. Time to write; Also learn the profession & careers other than teaching.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**dougpaulcase**](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase) Reason for MFA: not teaching creds, but writing creds. Learn the profession & careers other than teaching. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/longdaypress)**Long Day Press** ‏~~@~~**longdaypress**](https://twitter.com/longdaypress)

How important are previous publications when applying? Does it help to declare your publications (if you're not just bragging)? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

Working with profs who write poems/prose completely different from your current style is ideal. An MFA is a chance to experiment [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Let's do some pimping, shall we? Who is the only member of congress with an MFA in Creative Writing? [~~@~~**RepMarkTakano**](https://twitter.com/RepMarkTakano)! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

1/2: I often hear people say they want to attend an MFA program to have that “built-in” community for the rest of their lives... [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2: Finding a lifelong writing community is difficult. Attending an MFA program won't guarantee that. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) but can definitely help [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

Advice on deciding how many programs to apply to--how bad do you want to go and how bad do you want to go NOW. A lot = more apps [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Location matters, but not always in the ways you think, and places are often not what you expect if you haven't spent time there. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)**Dahlia Seroussi** ‏~~@~~**DahliaSeroussi**](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)

Agreed; Corvallis didn't seem "exciting" at first, making it the perfect place to write 4 me. Also nature. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/yhaduong)**Yen Ha** ‏~~@~~**yhaduong**](https://twitter.com/yhaduong)

[~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) I asked NYU MFA in Paris. For privacy would not put me in touch w/ students or grads. That's not normal? [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**yhaduong**](https://twitter.com/yhaduong) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Honestly, I'd be leery. Our dir asks students if they are willing to talk to prospective students.

[[](https://twitter.com/yhaduong)**Yen Ha** ‏~~@~~**yhaduong**](https://twitter.com/yhaduong)

[~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Yes. I want to talk to ppl about actual experience, not party line. They said for privacy reasons they couldn't.

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**yhaduong**](https://twitter.com/yhaduong) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Ugh. Red flag. I hope you have some other programs you're excited about!

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**yhaduong**](https://twitter.com/yhaduong) [~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) they must have a reason why. ask. seems odd tho, yes. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Usually recommend applicants apply to a range of programs, not just in terms of tiers but also in program size, other factors. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) oooh \*rubs hands together\*

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

Have any specific questions for me? I have opinions. Feel free to ask! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

More: “Why the Hell Wouldja Choose an MFA Program Anyways?” [~~@~~**Powell\_DA**](https://twitter.com/Powell_DA) [http://bit.ly/1P6s682](https://t.co/iDHFRWcNAK) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

1/2: “Rankings don’t matter if you feel the school’s a good fit.”— [~~@~~**elizmccracken**](https://twitter.com/elizmccracken) [http://bit.ly/20oyWJX](https://t.co/qKsI6399XW) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

2/2: “Rankings matter even less if you feel it’s a bad one.”— [~~@~~**elizmccracken**](https://twitter.com/elizmccracken) [http://bit.ly/20oyWJX](https://t.co/qKsI6399XW) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

a 3 or 4 year program is best for writers just getting their footing, IMO. My first year went by fast. Years 2-3 = wrote a ton [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) You will compile these tweets into a single coherent document? I'm impressed. I'd rather register grasshoppers to vote. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Already up to 120 pages of tweets!

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) Our poor Webmaster: This is going to be terrible to archive, but I love seeing directors and admins answering questions! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) programs should volunteer opportunities for applicants to Skype chat with current students and/or graduates - it's a big commit!

[[](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)**Nandini Balial** ‏~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Should I apply to a program? Is it worth the student loan? Does it make you a happier person?

[[](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)**Converse College MFA** ‏~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) I can say I'm glad I did. It was the best choice I ever made, and not because of jobs, but what I learned/experienced [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom)**Gabrielle Freeman** ‏~~@~~**TheLadyRandom**](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom)

[~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) [~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) I fell in love with poetry all over again. Loans are hefty, but, for me, totally worth it. Love my Converse family.

[[](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)**Nandini Balial** ‏~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)

[~~@~~**TheLadyRandom**](https://twitter.com/TheLadyRandom) [~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) I already owe six figures in loans. But apparently there are programs with funding?

[[](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)**Nandini Balial** ‏~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)

[~~@~~**ConverseMFA**](https://twitter.com/ConverseMFA) I think I'd only do it if it helped me get a job. It's paramount, for me anyway.

[[](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)**Michalle** ‏~~@~~**Senneteer**](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) omg only go if you get funding/apply to programs with funding

[[](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)**Nandini Balial** ‏~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)

[~~@~~**Senneteer**](https://twitter.com/Senneteer) Yeah. And I don't know if those exist. I also didn't like college, so I'm thinking it's maybe not the best fit for me.

[[](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)**Michalle** ‏~~@~~**Senneteer**](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) I am very pro mfa we can email about it you want more info

[[](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)**Michalle** ‏~~@~~**Senneteer**](https://twitter.com/Senneteer)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) lots of those exist!

[[](https://twitter.com/KarenatashaB)**Karen Backstein** ‏~~@~~**KarenatashaB**](https://twitter.com/KarenatashaB)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) For writing?

[[](https://twitter.com/Moose_Bigelow)**Brak Lesnar** ‏~~@~~**Moose\_Bigelow**](https://twitter.com/Moose_Bigelow)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) There was a big hubbub in [~~@~~**strangerslog**](https://twitter.com/strangerslog) about this. [http://www.thestranger.com/books/features/2015/02/27/21792750/things-i-can-say-about-mfa-writing-programs-now-that-i-no-longer-teach-in-one …](https://t.co/rZZmpntDHz)

[[](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)**EverywhereAllTheTime** ‏~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) literally all white faces in [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

[~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor) \*dives in\*

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

[~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor) [~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) POC here representing [~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa). also an alumna of the program :) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**workingondiversity**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/workingondiversity?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/AvantGarcia)**P.E. Garcia** ‏~~@~~**AvantGarcia**](https://twitter.com/AvantGarcia)

MFA programs are really [~~#~~**cool**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/cool?src=hash) and [~~#~~**fun**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/fun?src=hash). [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) [~~#~~**predominatelywhite**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/predominatelywhite?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Our MFA student-edited lit mag is [~~@~~**YemasseeJournal**](https://twitter.com/YemasseeJournal). Series: The Open Book, Fall Literary Festival, Shark's Parlor. Also town stuff. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)**SBShampton MFAWriter** ‏~~@~~**SouthampWriters**](https://twitter.com/SouthampWriters)

The good news: Lou Ann Walker, Neal Gabler, and Roger Rosenblatt teach nonfiction. The bad news: those keen eyes on your work [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/nicolebyrnepoet)**Nicole Byrne** ‏~~@~~**nicolebyrnepoet**](https://twitter.com/nicolebyrnepoet)

Your first semester is going to be a nightmare. Hang in there [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

and embrace your time in a grad program. you'll never have as much time in your life to write and read as you do during an MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) So true. I also tell students to push themselves outside their comfort zone. Safest place to try is GS

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

Take advantage of EVERY opportunity available to you. Pick up visiting writers at the airport. No job too small. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

Last one on [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash), for prose folks: I'd be drawn by a program that makes room to teach the novel. Not done enough.

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

If you're a POC, there may be a moment when your white colleagues will not understand your characters. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

This needs to change. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

Take it all in stride. But at the same time, defend your work. Don't shy away from discomfort. It's useful for everyone. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

I was the only black person in my incoming class and I was scared. I thought I was just a token. Don't be like me. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)**Julie Sheehan** ‏~~@~~**thebarbook**](https://twitter.com/thebarbook)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) Oh, traumatic! I'm pushing for the day when we all recognize the individuality of the imagination. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/WriteBoldly)**Lauren Wolf** ‏~~@~~**WriteBoldly**](https://twitter.com/WriteBoldly)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Critiques and workshops are better with diverse classrooms! Thanks for encouraging others to be brave.

[[](https://twitter.com/jademoonsun)**Renee C.** ‏~~@~~**jademoonsun**](https://twitter.com/jademoonsun)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) what do you mean? Don't be scared? Don't accept tokenism?

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

In + out of workshop, make sure you work on finding YOUR voice. You're not a ventriloquist. Your colleagues will be able to tell. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

I spent my first year trying to sound like a old white man. My most praised work came from me sounding like me. Imagine that. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

Reach out to people. I emailed Junot Díaz for advice and a day later, he responded to me with this: Find your community. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

Don't be ashamed if you've never read Didion or Munro. I came from a background of Russian and Japanese lit. You'll be just fine. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

If you're a POC, don't be afraid to write in dialect. Force your white colleagues to read it. It needs to stay. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/gasagasagirl)**Naomi Hirahara** ‏~~@~~**gasagasagirl**](https://twitter.com/gasagasagirl)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) I've been told by readers outside my community that I was being disrespectful by using dialect. Forget that!

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

If a colleague is writing a character who shares your racial identity and something bothers you, speak up. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) Thank you for this whole thread. I'm the only Hispanic in my program right now. Got some comments about some Spanish words.

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) Other than that, my favorite colleagues are supportive and ask questions and have been very welcoming.

[[](https://twitter.com/gasagasagirl)**Naomi Hirahara** ‏~~@~~**gasagasagirl**](https://twitter.com/gasagasagirl)

[~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso) [~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) How do words become mainstream? One way is usage, so I say use them!

[[](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)**EverywhereAllTheTime** ‏~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)

[~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso) [~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) can I ask what they said?

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor) [~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) asked if it was necessary since the story is written in English but set historically in a Spn speaking country

[[](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)**EverywhereAllTheTime** ‏~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)

[~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso) [~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) that's super basic. Just wow.

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor) I kinda expected that. I'm going to keep the Spanish. Ain't nobody else who can roll these Rs like I can

[[](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)**EverywhereAllTheTime** ‏~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor)

[~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso) dude, I've been told repeatedly in \*poc only spaces\* to change my Spanish words. We end doing what makes sense for the work.

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**bani\_amor**](https://twitter.com/bani_amor) Damn! I definitely see where the Spanish doesn't fit, and I see where it does, and that's where I'll put it. You do you!

[[](https://twitter.com/seelight)**seelight** ‏~~@~~**seelight**](https://twitter.com/seelight)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) Yes! And support fellow writers of color who speak up in class!

[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**

Do not just say a white colleague's POC character is "problematic". Lay it out clearly so that he or she can learn. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/GRIMACHU)**Just zis guy y'know?** ‏~~@~~**GRIMACHU**](https://twitter.com/GRIMACHU)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Despite the borderline racist tone of much of this, that's sound advice. Dismissal is just frustrating as hell.

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

POCs, gorge yourself on the works of those who look like you. The boldness will rub off on you, trust me. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)**Morgan Jerkins** ‏~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins)

Dig deep. You think you have your limits but you can go further. It feels like heart surgery but you will thank yourself later. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)**Stephen J Furlong** ‏~~@~~**BeenASon24**](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24)

Community is vital when it comes to MFA/MA work. While writing is a soloistic art, it thrives when dedicated people work together [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)**Rachael Warecki** ‏~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)

My MFA program brought me a community of like-minded writers, now some of my best friends. Wouldn't have met them otherwise. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

Most important thing: it's not about the MFA- it's abt the writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

start a magazines with yr fellow students. start a reading series. think literary citizenship. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)**Daniel A. Hoyt** ‏~~@~~**dan\_hoyt**](https://twitter.com/dan_hoyt)

Thanks, [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna), [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter), and everyone who participated. Great questions and advice. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Don't over estimate how little it matters if you live or work in NY. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

You may think you know what kind of writer you are, but understand you might come out the other side completely not that thing [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)**Max Rubin** ‏~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)

[~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) and also my writing sample is NOTHING like what I've ended up pursuing in my writing

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin) And part of that is allowing a faculty member who doesn't share your aesthetic to get under your skin and challenge you [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar)**Holly Vanderhaar** ‏~~@~~**HollyVanderhaar**](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar)

1/2 Speaking as an MFA and now an MFA Prog. Coordinator: Don't go into huge debt. Funding matters. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar)**Holly Vanderhaar** ‏~~@~~**HollyVanderhaar**](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar) [8m8 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/HollyVanderhaar/status/661633467898183680)

2/2 And the big-name faculty who drew u to the program may work with only a few students, or not teach regularly. Research ALL fac. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)**Paige Sullivan** ‏~~@~~**BPaigeSullivan**](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)

I also would research - is the program studio, or studio-academic? No idea that [~~@~~**gsucw**](https://twitter.com/gsucw) was studio-academic, but I love the rigor! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/MichaelBeeman)**Michael Beeman** ‏~~@~~**MichaelBeeman**](https://twitter.com/MichaelBeeman)

Want to keep your day job? Consider a low-residency MFA program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

Don't write stories about the person in workshop you want to have sex with. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Let's end with this: Alumni and current students, what do you wish you knew when you were looking for programs to apply to? [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Say yes to the optional and or tough stuff. Get in the DIScomfort zone. That's where good things happen to yr writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Nothing. Whatever missteps I made ultimately got me to a good spot, and my program, whatever its flaws, helped me do that.

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) As an alum (University of Montana) long ago, I wish I'd known how fast the two (in my case) years would pass. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) I was in Montana for the first time in 15 years and realized how significant, intense, and magical those years were. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Easy!Wish I had known how to submit, where, and to whom. My MFA was 100% craft.I had to learn the rest on my own after. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

[~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF) Mine too! They stapled-together photocopies on publishing with the title, "Trade Secrets" in my mailbox grad day. [~~#~~**MFACHAT**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFACHAT?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) Oh no! Awful! That's one reason I'm so gung-ho about helping students understand publishing before they graduate.[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)

Despite each program's preference, generally, does one long story or two shorter stories provide a better sample? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TashCotter)**Tasha Cotter** ‏~~@~~**TashCotter**](https://twitter.com/TashCotter)

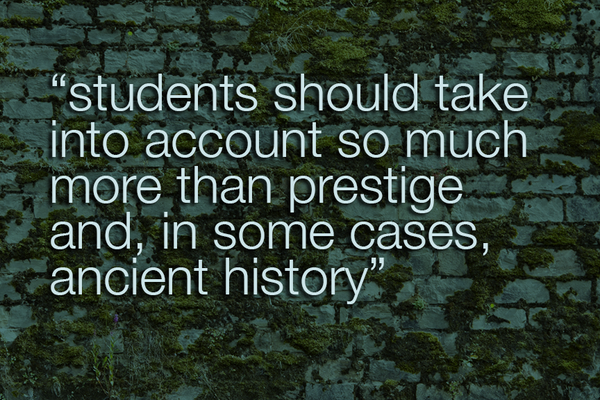
I'd highly recommend taking a class in a different genre. It could be a turning point for you! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

Great advice. I am a CNF writer, but some of my best aha moments came in a poetry or fiction seminar. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)**UsyBoroda** ‏~~@~~**usyboroda**](https://twitter.com/usyboroda)

Article by [~~@~~**jpoch**](https://twitter.com/jpoch) discusses MA vs. MFA [http://bit.ly/1LMES7P](https://t.co/qGGFWn8nwu) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

Okay wait, one more for [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)! I clicked my way through the math section of my GRE. Single digit score. Still got into good programs.

[[](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)**Leanna J Blackwell** ‏~~@~~**baypathmfaCNF**](https://twitter.com/baypathmfaCNF)

[~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin) Me, too! [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

“[~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin): [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)! [Low] math .. score. Still got into good programs.” Yep. We don't require GRE. Many MFA's don't either.

[[](https://twitter.com/nicolebyrnepoet)**Nicole Byrne** ‏~~@~~**nicolebyrnepoet**](https://twitter.com/nicolebyrnepoet)

There's a lot of opportunities available to you in grad school that aren't directly related to your MFA. Take advantage of those. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Other random thoughts: make sure you're in a program that lets you write what you want to write, not what they want to read [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

After the tweets settle, questions for the Institute of American Indian Arts' low residency MFA can be addressed to jdavis@iaia.edu [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) working at a UK university, I'm still amazed many US universities charge people to apply! Volume/admin nightmare I know, but still.

[[](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)**Paige Sullivan** ‏~~@~~**BPaigeSullivan**](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan)

I will also say that teaching a full load and juggling your writing can be a feat -- let alone finding time to submit! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~@~~**BPaigeSullivan**](https://twitter.com/BPaigeSullivan) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Yes! [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA) offers a class called surviving as a writer that helps students get ready for that challenge!

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Be humble going into a grad program. If you knew everything, you wouldn't need to go. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TashCotter)**Tasha Cotter** ‏~~@~~**TashCotter**](https://twitter.com/TashCotter)

At the [~~@~~**BGWritersStudio**](https://twitter.com/BGWritersStudio) I took courses in fiction and poetry. Loved that the faculty were so encouraging & supportive. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Ultimately, the person responsible for your writing is you. Programs and communities help, but, face it, writing is a solitary art. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)

[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) and often it's solitary and very much not art...[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

Dedicate yourself to increasing the diversity in your program. DO WHAT IT TAKES. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**AvantGarcia**](https://twitter.com/AvantGarcia)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

Broadly I'd say a graduate program will make you a better writer and, if you can, you should go to one. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

.[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) for those unable to attend for whatever reason so many other ways to learn craft and grow community [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

.[~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) places like Seattle's [~~@~~**HugoHouse**](https://twitter.com/HugoHouse) and Boston's [~~@~~**grubstreet**](https://twitter.com/grubstreet), great online options and conferences [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

[~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife) [~~@~~**HugoHouse**](https://twitter.com/HugoHouse) [~~@~~**grubstreet**](https://twitter.com/grubstreet) Agreed: Sackett too, and it seems like most large cities now have communities like these.

[[](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)**Shannon H. Polson** ‏~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)

Sorry, should have been [~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye) [~~@~~**HugoHouse**](https://twitter.com/HugoHouse) [~~@~~**GrubWriters**](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters)**GrubStreet** ‏~~@~~**GrubWriters**](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters)

Thanks [~~@~~**ABorderLife**](https://twitter.com/ABorderLife)! Our Novel & Memoir Incubators are also a good option for finishing book-length work with supportive community [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)**Lincoln Michel** ‏~~@~~**TheLincoln**](https://twitter.com/TheLincoln)

I'd also avoid going to a program for a SINGLE teacher you love, but definitely go to program with a diverse set of great teachers [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

Research, research, research programs! Don't be afraid to reach out to faculty and students! Only apply to fully-funded programs! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

So many great tweets, we can't keep up with retweeting them! [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)**Nick Mamatas** ‏~~@~~**NMamatas**](https://twitter.com/NMamatas)

The ego is always the enemy: writers who want their work "torn apart" are just as narcissistic as those who only want praise. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/gm_palmer)**G.M. Palmer** ‏~~@~~**gm\_palmer**](https://twitter.com/gm_palmer)

Put a novelist on your poetry thesis panel. Put a poet on your novel thesis panel. Learn from the other. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/c_rhoad)**Chad Rhoad** ‏~~@~~**c\_rhoad**](https://twitter.com/c_rhoad)

Knowing why you want a MFA program is crucial to choosing the right one for you. What do you want from your time there? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase)**Doug Paul Case** ‏~~@~~**dougpaulcase**](https://twitter.com/dougpaulcase)

OMG guys an MFA is not going to make you a writer. You are or you're not, will be or won't. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/novaren)**Nova Ren Suma** ‏~~@~~**novaren**](https://twitter.com/novaren)

Watching [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) with interest, now that I've joined the faculty of an MFA program for the first time ([~~@~~**VCFA**](https://twitter.com/VCFA))! So interesting.

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

We're happy to have [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) any time! Feel free to email with questions: palmdesertmfa@ucr.edu or just send us questions here.

[[](https://twitter.com/CatapultStory)**Catapult** ‏~~@~~**CatapultStory**](https://twitter.com/CatapultStory)

Make sure to check out the lively conversation happening in [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) right now

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Thanks [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) has been intense. Now let me look back over the hashtag to see what I missed!

[[](https://twitter.com/evelynalauer)**Evelyn Lauer** ‏~~@~~**evelynalauer**](https://twitter.com/evelynalauer)

I write more now with a career and two kids than I did during my MFA years. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)**Dahlia Seroussi** ‏~~@~~**DahliaSeroussi**](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)

[~~@~~**evelynalauer**](https://twitter.com/evelynalauer) this is incredibly comforting! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

Best things about getting an M.F.A., to me: 1. Health insurance 2. Access to academic library 3. Great teachers 4. Great colleagues [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

Most important, of course, is workshop. I didn't move to fucking Iowa to go to cool parties. What happens in that room is it. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

When you're checking out a program, visit campus. Go to workshop. Do you like what you see and hear? That's really the only thing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)**Max Rubin** ‏~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin)

[~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers) are you implying that 5 cheeseburger/week at George's is not as culturally fulfilling as the entire offerings of NYC?

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

[~~@~~**SoupRubin**](https://twitter.com/SoupRubin) why did you have to bring cheeseburgers into this

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Thank you for joining us today for this [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)! It's been amazing! Feel free to keep the great discussions going

[[](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)**AWP** ‏~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

Our next tweet chat will be in January. We'll chat about the [~~#~~**AWP16**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP16?src=hash) bookfair. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Thank you, everyone! That was exhausting and fun! More questions? Check out advice articles here: [http://bit.ly/1l4nhzN](https://t.co/oeO4xm0AG6) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lilliamr)**Lilliam Rivera** ‏~~@~~**lilliamr**](https://twitter.com/lilliamr)

Will have to check out the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) hashtag. Lot's of good advice.

[[](https://twitter.com/dianegreco)**Diane Josefowicz** ‏~~@~~**dianegreco**](https://twitter.com/dianegreco)

Don't neglect courses in literary translation [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mpnye)**Michael Nye** ‏~~@~~**mpnye**](https://twitter.com/mpnye)

"Do it or don't. But I got some place I gotta be" - Marlo Stanfield on MFA programs [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~#~~**TheWire**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TheWire?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)**davidbishop** ‏~~@~~**davidbishop**](https://twitter.com/davidbishop)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) interested in genre-fiction MA in UK? Here's the skinny on Creative Writing [~~@~~**EdinburghNapier**](https://twitter.com/EdinburghNapier) [http://macreativewriting.blogspot.co.uk/2015/05/updated-admissions-process-for-ma.html …](https://t.co/1HJCC9dYEV) [~~#~~**shamelessplug**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/shamelessplug?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

And if you want [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) in real life: our fall residency Dec. 4-13th. Come visit. Email palmdesertmfa@ucr.edu for details/schedule

[[](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)**SMC MFA Program** ‏~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa)

happy to answer more questions re: [~~@~~**smcmfa**](https://twitter.com/smcmfa) or MFA's in general @ cd8@stmarys-ca.edu. Thanks so much [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) & [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SMAnderson575)**Scott Anderson** ‏~~@~~**SMAnderson575**](https://twitter.com/SMAnderson575)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Too many young writers in MFA programs hardly/don't read much fiction. READ READ READ and then read some more [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/katetnorth)**Kate North** ‏~~@~~**katetnorth**](https://twitter.com/katetnorth)

I really enjoy teaching Novel Writing on the [~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet) grad program, feel free to ask any questions [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/beekeepermadrid)**Marian Womack** ‏~~@~~**beekeepermadrid**](https://twitter.com/beekeepermadrid)

[~~@~~**Cambridge\_Uni**](https://twitter.com/Cambridge_Uni) Master is low-residence & very well structured for full-time working students. I'm very happy in my 2nd year there. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)**Alyse Bensel** ‏~~@~~**leaseandleaves**](https://twitter.com/leaseandleaves)

I'd love to chat more about [~~#~~**KU**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/KU?src=hash) and Lawrence! We've got a lot going on in the graduate creative writing program [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

When the "lit mag" you can work on in your program is the Oxford American . . . (Arkansas Writers MFA Workshop) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**ARWritersMFA**](https://twitter.com/ARWritersMFA)

[[](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)**Adam Clay** ‏~~@~~**adam\_\_clay**](https://twitter.com/adam__clay)

if you're lucky enough to only teach CW in your MFA program, ask to teach comp for at least a semester. You'll thank me later. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)**Annie Frazier** ‏~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)

Want a mentor to read 175-250 pages of your fiction per semester? Check out [~~@~~**spalding\_mfa**](https://twitter.com/spalding_mfa). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) happy to answer any questions about [~~@~~**Rosemont\_MFA**](https://twitter.com/Rosemont_MFA). Thanks to [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) & [~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)!

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Thank you for sparking such an awesome & inspiring discussion! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Follow some of our faculty [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) folks: [~~@~~**Elizabeth\_Crane**](https://twitter.com/Elizabeth_Crane), [~~@~~**encurtido**](https://twitter.com/encurtido), [~~@~~**Ginafrangello**](https://twitter.com/Ginafrangello), [~~@~~**todgoldberg**](https://twitter.com/todgoldberg), [~~@~~**JAEssbaum**](https://twitter.com/JAEssbaum), [~~@~~**RobergeRob**](https://twitter.com/RobergeRob), [~~@~~**davidulin**](https://twitter.com/davidulin)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Follow even more of our faculty and alums [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) people: [~~@~~**SGJ72**](https://twitter.com/SGJ72), [~~@~~**NatashiaDeon**](https://twitter.com/NatashiaDeon), [~~@~~**Nicolucci1899**](https://twitter.com/Nicolucci1899), [~~@~~**ShadesShadows**](https://twitter.com/ShadesShadows), [~~@~~**DeanneStillman2**](https://twitter.com/DeanneStillman2)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_schuman)**David Schuman** ‏~~@~~**d\_schuman**](https://twitter.com/d_schuman) [2m2 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/d_schuman/status/661635771544281089)

A whirlwind and I forgot to tag [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) like a thousand times but thanks [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)! And feel free to get in touch with any questions.

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Because we're small, we bring in visiting writers to read and give master classes. \*Some\* are listed here: [http://tinyurl.com/pmlf4gz](https://t.co/hHZlFodmLY) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)**Annie Frazier** ‏~~@~~**BijouAnnie**](https://twitter.com/BijouAnnie)

Try to find out what the workshop atmosphere is like before applying. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/beekeepermadrid)**Marian Womack** ‏~~@~~**beekeepermadrid**](https://twitter.com/beekeepermadrid)

If you want to feel part of a community attend the [~~@~~**ClarionUCSD**](https://twitter.com/ClarionUCSD) writers workshop [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

And for all your information [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) folks: [http://palmdesertmfa.ucr.edu](https://t.co/1Y9qQKM664)

[[](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)**Chelsea H Bryan** ‏~~@~~**chelseahbryan**](https://twitter.com/chelseahbryan)

The biggest part of the experience besides teachers are peers: do go to visiting day to see if it's the right environment. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

Thinking about an MFA or in the m idst of apps? Check out [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) hosted by [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) for smart advice. [~~#~~**amwriting**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/amwriting?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)**Lisa Romeo** ‏~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

Online MFA [~~@~~**Bay\_Path**](https://twitter.com/Bay_Path) I have far more 1:1 w/my students than I had w/faculty in my low res. Not disparaging, just program design. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)**Rachael Warecki** ‏~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)

Also: went to a low-res MFA program, [~~@~~**AntiochLA**](https://twitter.com/AntiochLA). Allowed me to work full-time while also learning & writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

[~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter) yes, lots of our low res students work [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) [4m4 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado/status/661637197242769409)

A few [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) thoughts:

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

1.) I'm very glad I didn't go to my MFA directly out of college, but I'm also glad that I didn't wait much longer than I did. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)**EDML** ‏~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) Yeah, you gotta wait until you've got the burn for school again.

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

[~~@~~**exclamate\_**](https://twitter.com/exclamate_) Exactly! If I'd gone right out of college I would have been hella exhausted.

[[](https://twitter.com/cpburkejr)**Char Wars** ‏~~@~~**cpburkejr**](https://twitter.com/cpburkejr)

This is fantastic advice. Be sure to check out the whole detailed thread. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

2.) I had NO IDEA what sort of writer I was going in. My style happened b/c smarter writers than me sensed what I was trying to do. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

3.) Part of the reason I applied for MFAs when I did was because the economy sucked & I hated my job. I needed to Get Out. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

4.) I am really grateful that I went to a program in a city with a low cost of living. (Almost went to Austin; so glad I didn't.) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

5.) I'm very grateful I didn't take on debt for my MFA. Everyone's needs are different, but I think I made the right choice. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

6.) There are more funded programs than you think. I could have spent $$$, but I waited an extra year & applied again & I'm glad. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

7.) When you're looking at programs, don't necessarily shoot for big name faculty; fame can't predict how good a teacher is. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lkz25)**Leah Zufall** ‏~~@~~**lkz25**](https://twitter.com/lkz25)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) thanks for sharing Carmen Maria Machado, have a great Tuesday :) (insight by [http://commun.it](https://t.co/hrwD9zN66A))

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

8.) Good teachers don't necessarily have to write in your genre/style; they have to be smart, well-read, and open-minded. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

(This is true of fellow students, too. My best readers are themselves writers in a variety of genres, including realism.) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)**Christopher R Alonso** ‏~~@~~**ChrisRAlonso**](https://twitter.com/ChrisRAlonso)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) I agree! Had a big workshop two weeks ago and saw how receptive and thoughtful colleagues were, esp the realists. Realest.

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

But I loved getting my MFA. I had time to write & health insurance. I found my voice. I read a ton. I met amazing people. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Oh, another thing: don't rely on "chatter" about programs. Go straight to the source. Talk to current & recent students. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Wondering about a program's competitiveness? Genre-friendliness? Ability to help you during & after your program? Ask the students [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Oh, and don't apply with samples that artificially cater to your perception of a program's tastes. Apply with your best work. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Don't be afraid to re-apply a second (or third) year! Readers change, luck changes. And in between, keep improving your writing! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cpburkejr)**Char Wars** ‏~~@~~**cpburkejr**](https://twitter.com/cpburkejr)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) I did exactly this and was literally multiple times more successful at round two. You get better with time.

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Also: MFAs are not about "teaching writing." They're about giving writers time, space, advice, education, resources, community. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

"Can writing be taught?" is not the right question here. It's "What could this writer do if she had the resources she needed?" [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Like, my MFA program was the right set of resources for me at the right time in my life & career & writerly arc. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Also, the MFA is just the beginning. Plenty of people get them & stop writing. It's really about what you do afterwards. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Also, there are always more talented writers than there are slots in MFA programs. (This is true of magazines & residencies, too.) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

There isn't infinite money for every writer with potential. So apply widely, don't get discouraged, and keep reading & writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Make sure you know WHY you're applying for an MFA. Do you want or need what it offers? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

For example, if you want an MFA, you should love reading. If you don't, you're in the wrong field. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

You also should have thoughts and feelings about literature as an art form--about aesthetic--however that looks. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

And... I think that's it? Whew. But I can answer questions about MFAs, if you have them. I have A Lot of Feelings, obviously. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/libbywebster)**Libby** ‏~~@~~**libbywebster**](https://twitter.com/libbywebster)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) I am glad I follow you on Twitter. I am in the process of my first time applying to MFAs & love reading your thoughts! 0:)

[[](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)**Dahlia Seroussi** ‏~~@~~**DahliaSeroussi**](https://twitter.com/DahliaSeroussi)

Getting 2/3 years to read&write is one of the best things you'll do. Don't blow it by being an asshole. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)**Leslie Pietrzyk** ‏~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter)

[~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Shouldn't have stopped...[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) just started trending! :)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

[~~@~~**lesliepwriter**](https://twitter.com/lesliepwriter) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Jon Stewart was in our sights! We had him. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Yes! Another dream come true for me! (The first was getting my MFA, of course!) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)**UCRLowResMFA** ‏~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA)

Write something that makes you happy. Don't be miserable doing this job. Be miserable in a cubicle. Be happy writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters)**GrubStreet** ‏~~@~~**GrubWriters**](https://twitter.com/GrubWriters)

Yes! Though don't be miserable in a cubicle if you can help it [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

One thing that has surprised me about low residency programs is the intensity of the bonds between students. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)**Rachael Warecki** ‏~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)

True. I have strong friendships with [~~@~~**ArtsCollide**](https://twitter.com/ArtsCollide), [~~@~~**LimelightWendy**](https://twitter.com/LimelightWendy), [~~@~~**K\_Imani**](https://twitter.com/K_Imani), etc. due to [~~@~~**AntiochLA**](https://twitter.com/AntiochLA). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/ArtsCollide)**Ashley Perez** ‏~~@~~**ArtsCollide**](https://twitter.com/ArtsCollide)

[~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter) [~~@~~**LimelightWendy**](https://twitter.com/LimelightWendy) [~~@~~**K\_Imani**](https://twitter.com/K_Imani) [~~@~~**AntiochLA**](https://twitter.com/AntiochLA) [~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA) one of the best parts of the MFA experience

[[](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)**Rachael Warecki** ‏~~@~~**RachaelLaWriter**](https://twitter.com/RachaelLaWriter)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Also true!

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

Don't be afraid to apply for fellowships--if you don't get them, maybe you'll still get noticed. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack)**Joshua Bohnsack** ‏~~@~~**josiahbohnsack**](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack) [2m2 minutes ago](https://twitter.com/josiahbohnsack/status/661637694699601920)

So much great advice with [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). Thanks all!

[[](https://twitter.com/AnitaLaydonMill)**Anita Laydon Miller** ‏~~@~~**AnitaLaydonMill**](https://twitter.com/AnitaLaydonMill)

[~~@~~**jendellazanna**](https://twitter.com/jendellazanna) Did you notice the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) discussion?

[[](https://twitter.com/scMFA)**South Carolina MFA** ‏~~@~~**scMFA**](https://twitter.com/scMFA)

Thanks [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) for hosting [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). We have to sign off now, but there's lots of info on our website: [http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/engl/mfa-program-carolina …](https://t.co/GZ07ffz4bO)

[[](https://twitter.com/bravenewlady)**Ashley Strosnider** ‏~~@~~**bravenewlady**](https://twitter.com/bravenewlady)

Does everyone in [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) already have a MFA? Is it "a MFA" or "an MFA?" So many questions.

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**bravenewlady**](https://twitter.com/bravenewlady) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) It's an MFA. I think many using this hashtag direct programs or are in them, but it's also for those looking at them.

[[](https://twitter.com/earthandstars)**Laura Villareal** ‏~~@~~**earthandstars**](https://twitter.com/earthandstars)

Funding & diversity were concerns when applying. Luckily, I ended up at [~~@~~**NewarkMFA**](https://twitter.com/NewarkMFA) which has both. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)**IAIALowRez** ‏~~@~~**LowRezMFA**](https://twitter.com/LowRezMFA)

I skipped a meeting with the Dean to be here, so I better justify my time: [http://www.iaia.edu/mfa](https://t.co/RNRk9okw8t) will take you to our faculty. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/hopejordannh)**Hope Jordan** ‏~~@~~**hopejordannh**](https://twitter.com/hopejordannh)

Going to writing conferences, then back to my normal life felt like starting an MFA and stopping it after a week, year after year [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/BlakeKimzey)**Blake Kimzey** ‏~~@~~**BlakeKimzey**](https://twitter.com/BlakeKimzey)

An MFA is not the destination. It can be a starting point (or way station). You don't deserve anything just because you enroll. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)**Carla Spataro** ‏~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro)

Just finished participating in my first twitter chat. Felt a little like being a puck in a hockey game, but really informative! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill) [**James Tate Hill** ‏~~@~~**JamesTateHill**](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill)

The [~~#~~**MFA**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFA?src=hash) is barely the beginning of your writing education, not the completion. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/akmiska)**Amanda Miska** ‏~~@~~**akmiska**](https://twitter.com/akmiska)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) just makes me feel bitter that there wasn't an active Twitter lit community in 2005 to tell me I was making a huge mistake

[[](https://twitter.com/vincentscarpa)**Vincent Scarpa** ‏~~@~~**vincentscarpa**](https://twitter.com/vincentscarpa)

If you're on the wrong meds, your first year barely counts. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

This [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) was fun. And, I hope, useful! Thanks [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson)**Emma Hutson** ‏~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson)

Did my MA at [~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet) - the lecturers really make a difference - interaction, support and innovation. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**English@CardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

[~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson) great to hear, so glad to provide a place for you to study before your next step onto a PhD! [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson) [**Emma Hutson** ‏~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson)

[~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet) I miss doing creative writing with you guys though! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)**HumanitiesCardiffMet** ‏~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet)

[~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson) the feeling is mutual!

[[](https://twitter.com/Durre_Shahwar)**Durre Shahwar** ‏~~@~~**Durre\_Shahwar**](https://twitter.com/Durre_Shahwar)

.[~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson) [~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet) Not to mention that they really know their stuff & are approachable, always make the time. [~~#~~**nostalgia**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/nostalgia?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson)**Emma Hutson** ‏~~@~~**Emma\_S\_Hutson**](https://twitter.com/Emma_S_Hutson)

[~~@~~**Durre\_Shahwar**](https://twitter.com/Durre_Shahwar) [~~@~~**English\_CMet**](https://twitter.com/English_CMet) Yep! Creative writing workshops were brilliant. Don't get quite the same experience anywhere else. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

I just found a wealth of interesting people to follow thanks to [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). I love how the Internet makes creative connections more viable.

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

[~~@~~**BeenASon24**](https://twitter.com/BeenASon24) Thanks to you too! Really enjoyed your input on [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). 

[[](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)**Heather Steadham** ‏~~@~~**hbsteadham**](https://twitter.com/hbsteadham)

And, of course, SUBMIT SUBMIT SUBMIT. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)**Jenna Sauers** ‏~~@~~**jennasauers**](https://twitter.com/jennasauers)

This [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) was fun. And, I hope, useful! Thanks [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)

[[](https://twitter.com/CreateShanti)**Create ॐ Shanti ✑** ‏~~@~~**CreateShanti**](https://twitter.com/CreateShanti)

[~~@~~**akmiska**](https://twitter.com/akmiska) oh dear I just looked up the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) and confused myself all over again.

[[](https://twitter.com/benrhoffman)**Ben Hoffman** ‏~~@~~**benrhoffman**](https://twitter.com/benrhoffman)

There are like 8 MFAs where agents will come sign you (or sign your friend, not you). You'll find an agent later when you're ready [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)**Danielle Lazarin** ‏~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin)

.[~~@~~**benrhoffman**](https://twitter.com/benrhoffman) also was in a program that brought agents in but wasn't in a rush for us to sign. Was told: write book first! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/benrhoffman)**Ben Hoffman** ‏~~@~~**benrhoffman**](https://twitter.com/benrhoffman)

.[~~@~~**d\_lazarin**](https://twitter.com/d_lazarin) yes, even if your program brings in agents, agent is 99% gonna say, cool, keep going, get in touch when you have a book [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) Applicants do you know about the MFA Draft '16 on Facebook? I've had students who thought it helped. [https://www.facebook.com/groups/228419750615188/ …](https://t.co/5kkSEO9RaK)

[[](https://twitter.com/lucekel)**Kelly Luce** ‏~~@~~**lucekel**](https://twitter.com/lucekel)

Don't expect a program to 'make you a writer.' Do the work you need to do to identify as a writer before you apply to grad school. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/warrenbuchanan)**Warren Buchanan** ‏~~@~~**warrenbuchanan**](https://twitter.com/warrenbuchanan)

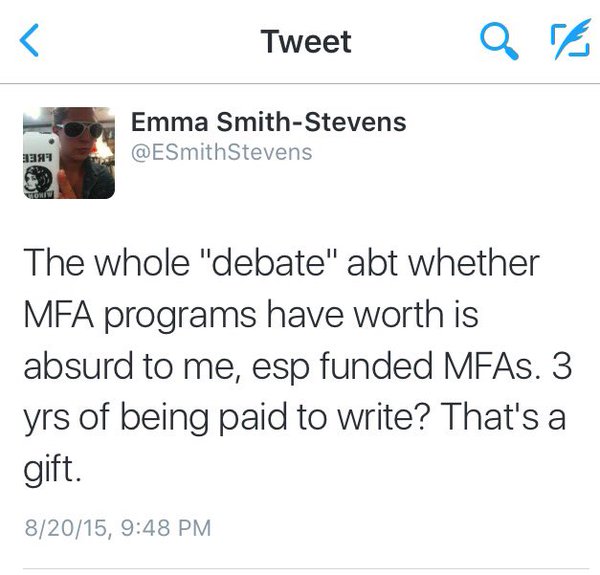
An MFA doesn't measure talent or skill. It measures whether or not you have the drive to devote your life, your being, to writing. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/LiteraryDisco)**Literary Disco** ‏~~@~~**LiteraryDisco**](https://twitter.com/LiteraryDisco)

Some of you are likely MFA bound writers...Tod answered questions today during [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) via [~~@~~**UCRPDLRMFA**](https://twitter.com/UCRPDLRMFA).

[[](https://twitter.com/ESmithStevens)**Emma Smith-Stevens** ‏~~@~~**ESmithStevens**](https://twitter.com/ESmithStevens)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/tithenai)**Amal El-Mohtar** ‏~~@~~**tithenai**](https://twitter.com/tithenai)

Check out [~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)'s TL right now for [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) thoughts. A lot of fantastic, succinct advice.

[[](https://twitter.com/MidwayJournal)**Midway Journal** ‏~~@~~**MidwayJournal**](https://twitter.com/MidwayJournal)

If you haven’t, check out the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) on Twitter.

[[](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill)**James Tate Hill** ‏~~@~~**JamesTateHill**](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill)

Most of what you learn in an [~~#~~**MFA**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFA?src=hash) & beyond is a result of your willingness to learn. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/DanielShea1)**Dan Shea** ‏~~@~~**DanielShea1**](https://twitter.com/DanielShea1)

Unless it's free, don't. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Kris10ly)**Kristen Leigh** ‏~~@~~**Kris10ly**](https://twitter.com/Kris10ly)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Don't apply to [~~#~~**gradschool**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/gradschool?src=hash) immediately after undergrad. [~~#~~**Travel**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Travel?src=hash), [~~#~~**Work**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Work?src=hash), [~~#~~**Fail**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/Fail?src=hash) at something so you have something to write about.

[[](https://twitter.com/ArcadiaCW)**AU Creative Writing** ‏~~@~~**ArcadiaCW**](https://twitter.com/ArcadiaCW)

We love seeing the great conversations around [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash). Makes us happy to be a part of this community.

[[](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill)**James Tate Hill** ‏~~@~~**JamesTateHill**](https://twitter.com/JamesTateHill)

The less you think about [~~#~~**publishing**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/publishing?src=hash), the more you can think about [~~#~~**writing**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/writing?src=hash). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)**David J. Rothman** ‏~~@~~**Prosodisto**](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)

[~~@~~**realgaymania**](https://twitter.com/realgaymania) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) I encourage students to remember that to publish is to join a community. Focus on that and it will come.

[[](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn)**Hunger Mountain** ‏~~@~~**HungerMtn**](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn)

So busy reading submissions for our next print issue, we hardly noticed the new trend...What is this [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) anyway?

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**hungermtn**](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn) [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) it was a tweetchat by [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) to discuss MFA programs, applications, etc. Official time is over, but continuing.

[[](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn)**Hunger Mountain** ‏~~@~~**HungerMtn**](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn) [Nov 3](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn/status/661652335941283840) [Montpelier, VT](https://twitter.com/search?q=place%3A495a55057ac886b9)

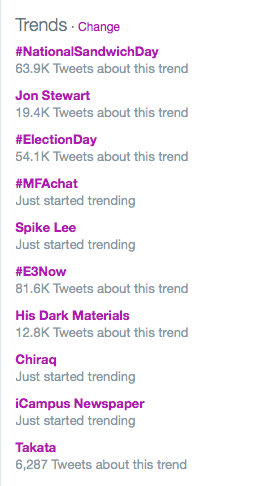
[~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Thanks! Got our noses buried in stories over here, bummer to miss this Twitter trend though!

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**hungermtn**](https://twitter.com/HungerMtn) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) Scroll back through the hashtag [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) and you can see the whole conversation. A few people are still using it.

[[](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)**Diane Zinna** ‏~~@~~**DianeZinna**](https://twitter.com/DianeZinna)

Also, this: [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) trending!



[[](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)**David J. Rothman** ‏~~@~~**Prosodisto**](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)

So i think I'm coming late to the party -- but what a great chat. [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)**Nandini Balial** ‏~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra)

So this article makes me think I'm not qualified. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [http://www.thestranger.com/books/features/2015/02/27/21792750/things-i-can-say-about-mfa-writing-programs-now-that-i-no-longer-teach-in-one …](https://t.co/wKQsV2RGl4)

[[](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)**David J. Rothman** ‏~~@~~**Prosodisto**](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)

[~~@~~**nandelabra**](https://twitter.com/nandelabra) That article created quite a firestorm. Take it with a large grain of salt. You can learn a great deal in an MFA! [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/AndreaGtrrz)**Andrea Gutierrez** ‏~~@~~**AndreaGtrrz**](https://twitter.com/AndreaGtrrz)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) So so true. [~~@~~**chrisabani**](https://twitter.com/chrisabani) said this to us in my first quarter in grad school. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Someone once said that MFAs are like pressure cookers; they speed along a writer's process faster than if they hadn't taken one. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)**David J. Rothman** ‏~~@~~**Prosodisto**](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)

[~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) ...and it sure beats Ramen...

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

For me, that's apt. I think I could have been in my current place artistically eventually, but it would have taken 5+ more years. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

I think that's a useful metaphor. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Also, SF/F writers: Clarion & Clarion West offer similar, though not identical, benefits to an MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

Clarion can give you similar access to teachers, advice, connections, & community. But w/o the funding & time, which is important. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

You can do both, either, or neither. It just depends what you want/need. I did both & it was a great combination. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)**David J. Rothman** ‏~~@~~**Prosodisto**](https://twitter.com/Prosodisto)

My program is at Western State Colorado University -- a low-res in the Rockies; 2-wk. July intensive. [http://www.western.edu/academics/graduate/creative-writing …](https://t.co/LGkz7Drdod). [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)**Carmen Maria Machado** ‏~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado)

So yeah. Basically, write & read a ton, evaluate your wants & needs, do your research, & don't get discouraged. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/StonecoastTweet)**Stonecoast Community** ‏~~@~~**StonecoastTweet**](https://twitter.com/StonecoastTweet)

[~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash) happy to answer questions about low-residency challenges and benefits

[[](https://twitter.com/TheNewChrissy)**Christine Hennessey** ‏~~@~~**TheNewChrissy**](https://twitter.com/TheNewChrissy)

You don't need to go grad school right away! I started my [~~#~~**MFA**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFA?src=hash) program when I was 29 and was so glad I waited. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lesleslielie)**Leslie Jones** ‏~~@~~**lesleslielie**](https://twitter.com/lesleslielie)

I just read Harold Brodkey expound for 21 pages, mostly on oral sex... And it was awesome! (workshop assignment). [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kistulentz)**Steve Kistulentz** ‏~~@~~**kistulentz**](https://twitter.com/kistulentz)

Advice for possible grad students: ask. Will faculty be on leave? What help can I get outside workshop? Can I visit a class? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/kistulentz)**Steve Kistulentz** ‏~~@~~**kistulentz**](https://twitter.com/kistulentz)

Also ask: is MFA the right degree? MA more flexible, perhaps a better entry into PhD study. (disclaimer: I direct an MA program!) [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/RathallaReview)**Rathalla Review** ‏~~@~~**RathallaReview**](https://twitter.com/RathallaReview)

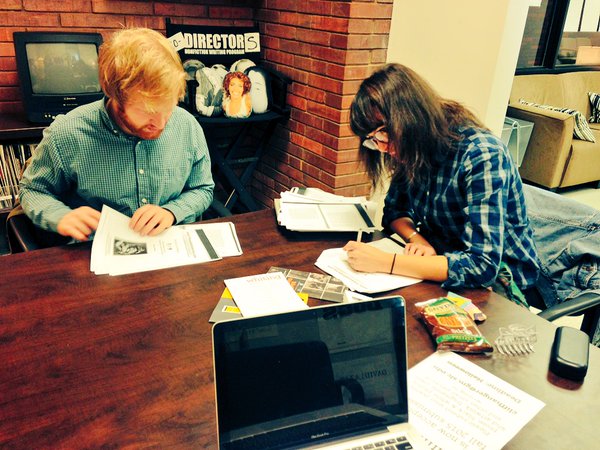
Amazing conversations happening at [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash) ! Search the hashtag for insights from [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter) [~~@~~**carmenmmachado**](https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado) [~~@~~**cjspataro**](https://twitter.com/cjspataro) [~~@~~**LisaRomeo**](https://twitter.com/LisaRomeo)

[[](https://twitter.com/ehcoon)**Emily Coon** ‏~~@~~**ehcoon**](https://twitter.com/ehcoon)

Check out the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) thread if you have questions/thoughts about MFAs. Moving across the country to begin mine was a good call.

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

What are nonfiction writers [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa) up to rn? Some Borges, some Whitney, some snacking, etc. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) [~~@~~**awpwriter**](https://twitter.com/awpwriter)



[[](https://twitter.com/lesleslielie)**Leslie Jones** ‏~~@~~**lesleslielie**](https://twitter.com/lesleslielie)

Mostly, we wear sweatpants with our concentration (poetry/fiction) stamped across the butt. [~~#~~**mfachat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/mfachat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/dawniewalton)**dawniewalton** ‏~~@~~**dawniewalton**](https://twitter.com/dawniewalton)

[~~@~~**MorganJerkins**](https://twitter.com/MorganJerkins) Thank you for your insights in [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash). Am applying to programs this year and found your words super helpful!

[[](https://twitter.com/WriteBoldly)**Lauren Wolf** ‏~~@~~**WriteBoldly**](https://twitter.com/WriteBoldly)

Hey [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) people, Let's continue this conversation over a drink at [~~#~~**AWP16**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/AWP16?src=hash)



[[](https://twitter.com/toddedillard)**todd dillard** ‏~~@~~**toddedillard**](https://twitter.com/toddedillard)

how did i miss [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)? I have things to say! And those things are: MFA debt is the worse. Also: Don't go straight to MFAs from undergrad.

[[](https://twitter.com/OCaptainEnglish)**Forrest Anderson** ‏~~@~~**OCaptainEnglish**](https://twitter.com/OCaptainEnglish)

[~~@~~**Mariad\_kins**](https://twitter.com/Mariad_kins) good convo about mfa programs happening now on twitter at this hastag: [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/eshonkwiler)**Eric Shonkwiler** ‏~~@~~**eshonkwiler**](https://twitter.com/eshonkwiler)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Find the biggest person in your program and beat them in a fight.

[[](https://twitter.com/eshonkwiler)**Eric Shonkwiler** ‏~~@~~**eshonkwiler**](https://twitter.com/eshonkwiler)

Unplug your thesis chair when fully charged to ensure longer battery life. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/mlhollow)**Martha Holloway** ‏~~@~~**mlhollow**](https://twitter.com/mlhollow)

Biggest advice for MFA seekers: Don't go for it if you don't really, truly want it. Also don't take on (more) student loan debt. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/transporbation)**Amanda Sledz** ‏~~@~~**transporbation**](https://twitter.com/transporbation)

Don't enroll in any MFA program, ever, that expects you to pay for it with student loans exclusively. Don't do that to your future. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/transporbation)**Amanda Sledz** ‏~~@~~**transporbation**](https://twitter.com/transporbation)

the writer you admire the most is not necessarily the best teacher. Famous writers are also humans with issues, obsessions, flaws [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/transporbation)**Amanda Sledz** ‏~~@~~**transporbation**](https://twitter.com/transporbation)

the best teachers see what you're trying to accomplish, and coax you towards it. You walk away still writing like you, not them. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/transporbation)**Amanda Sledz** ‏~~@~~**transporbation**](https://twitter.com/transporbation)

you don't need an MFA. It is a piece of paper that many people have. What you need is to observe, to be inspired, and to dream. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/SamLienhard)**Samantha Lienhard** ‏~~@~~**SamLienhard**](https://twitter.com/SamLienhard)

Looks like I missed the [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash), but as a genre writer, going to Seton Hill was one of the best decisions I made. [~~#~~**SHUWPF**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SHUWPF?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TristEv)**Tristian Evans** ‏~~@~~**TristEv**](https://twitter.com/TristEv)

I start in January,[~~@~~**SamLienhard**](https://twitter.com/SamLienhard). I am really excited about attending the [~~#~~**SHUWPF**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/SHUWPF?src=hash) program. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/lilredradio)**Laura Hunsberger** ‏~~@~~**lilredradio**](https://twitter.com/lilredradio)

My MFA was the launching point into a career I love that uses writing as an essential skill: radio reporter and producer. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)**jen!** ‏~~@~~**JenniferMWolff**](https://twitter.com/JenniferMWolff)

I dream of an MFA that would help me break the chains of fear that hold me back from speaking my truth. Need a community. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/EileenTomarchio)**Eileen Tomarchio** ‏~~@~~**EileenTomarchio**](https://twitter.com/EileenTomarchio)

Looking back, wish I'd pursued a MFA in cw rather than pricier film directing/ screenwriting. Master of Fuzzy Aspirations? [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)**W. P. Johnson** ‏~~@~~**Americantypo**](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)

Being taught to write like everyone else is super pricey. Ass in seat is free and you'll probably produce more work. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)**W. P. Johnson** ‏~~@~~**Americantypo**](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)

Most, but not all, end up just treating it like a social club. Writing is lonely work unfortunately. Just gotta sit down and do it. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)**W. P. Johnson** ‏~~@~~**Americantypo**](https://twitter.com/Americantypo)

A thesis, for example, is a book which, if it's your 1st, will probably stink. better to write ur 1st shitty book without debt. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

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There's also little chance it will lead to a teaching gig. Also, tenure track positions are an endangered species. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

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In short, I've seen more mfa peeps tinker away endlessly with their terrible thesis while others grinded and eventually published [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

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That said if you can get a free ride, go for it [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/PulchPress)**Pulchritude Press** ‏~~@~~**PulchPress**](https://twitter.com/PulchPress)

[~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) Our advice (biased but human, from founders who know) is to pursue & invest in only that which assists you in doing what you love

[[](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)**Brittany Borghi** ‏~~@~~**brittany\_borghi**](https://twitter.com/brittany_borghi)

Yeah I know [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) is over, but look: even one of [~~@~~**uiowa**](https://twitter.com/uiowa)'s writers can fix his computer.



[[](https://twitter.com/lisanikol)**lisa nikolidakis** ‏~~@~~**lisanikol**](https://twitter.com/lisanikol)

My equation: (funding) (faculty) size + teaching load = the right school(s) for you [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/AndyCWooldridge)**Andrew Wooldridge** ‏~~@~~**AndyCWooldridge**](https://twitter.com/AndyCWooldridge)

Take time away from academia after your undergrad, live life and discover yourself, and then apply for an MFA. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/cerena)**Kenzie Allen** ‏~~@~~**cerena**](https://twitter.com/cerena)

Well just so [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) knows, yes, you can write a mass marketed (not as litfic) book while in top MFA programs. [http://www.amazon.com/Every-Anxious-Wave-A-Novel/dp/1250067499 …](https://t.co/4GtfauCZ36)

[[](https://twitter.com/annablabs)**Anna Cabe** ‏~~@~~**annablabs**](https://twitter.com/annablabs)

Golly, missed [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)! All I have to say is: I am GLAD to have taken time off between undergrad and MFA.

[[](https://twitter.com/annablabs)**Anna Cabe** ‏~~@~~**annablabs**](https://twitter.com/annablabs)

Taking time off gave me perspective and discipline. It made me hungry and self-starting. My work gained breadth and depth. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/annablabs)**Anna Cabe** ‏~~@~~**annablabs**](https://twitter.com/annablabs)

Keep in mind I was a traditional-aged middle-class undergrad so if if you're a different type of person, you might not need to. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/annablabs)**Anna Cabe** ‏~~@~~**annablabs**](https://twitter.com/annablabs)

Also: I LOVE being fully funded for 3 years in a quiet town. I'm easily distracted so it's easier for me to focus. Also money. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/annablabs)**Anna Cabe** ‏~~@~~**annablabs**](https://twitter.com/annablabs)

As I've told my students, being a writer depends on the practice. If you can't write before or after or without, it's meaningless. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

Many comments on debt in [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash) yesterday got me looking. Here's an article about loan forgiveness programs. [http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/2013/09/06/student-loan-forgiveness-options/2776545/ …](https://t.co/2h4j36V39k)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**thew\_mfacw**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) One resource referenced in this article is [http://www.saltmoney.org](https://t.co/wy1De1NUcV) — you have to sign up, but it appears to be free. [~~#~~**MFAchat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAchat?src=hash)

[[](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)**The W's MFA in CW** ‏~~@~~**TheW\_MFACW**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW)

[~~@~~**thew\_mfacw**](https://twitter.com/TheW_MFACW) Still probably the most comprehensive place to get info on student loans is [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/](https://t.co/cbMyaaJOoa) [~~#~~**MFAChat**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MFAChat?src=hash)