



The American Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces
Between the Lines: Peace and the Writing Experience," International Writing Program for
Young Arabic-Speaking Writers at the University of Iowa

July 14 –28, 2018

Between the Lines (BTL) is a two-week cultural exchange program designed to host 10 writers' ages 15 to 18 from Arabic-speaking countries, 10 students from Russia, and 12 Americans for a two-week residency at the University of Iowa from July 14 - July 28, 2018. These young writers will participate in an exchange that will broaden and sharpen their writing skills, build bridges with their American and Russian counterparts, and deepen their understanding of American popular culture. This year will mark a programming shift from past sessions. The Between the Lines (BTL) program will all be held in English only. Students from all participating countries will be fully integrated in seminars and workshops. This shift is designed to best utilize the seminars and workshops, as well as the creative space of the BTL program that encourages cross-cultural and creative empathy. Program activities will include English language writing workshops, world literatures seminars, cultural visits, and other local events. At the culmination of the program, the students' writings will be collected into a printed anthology to be used for educational purposes.

The program will also include an educational opportunity for participation by two overseas teachers accompanying the students as chaperones, one male and one female. A substantive creative writing and professional development program created by the IWP will enable the chaperones to further their skills during their time in the United States.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs will cover the costs for this cultural and creative exchange, including international travel, per diem, and other costs associated with the students'/chaperones' stay in the United States.

Requirements for Students:

- The program is designed for talented young writers who show promise to become future literary figures in their respective countries and in their own native languages.
- Students must be between the ages of 15-18 as of July 14, 2018.
- Students must be proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking).

All applicants must submit the following:

- a) A CV that includes full name, date of birth, email and preferred contact phone number, name of school in home country, and city/town of residence.

b) A writing sample of 6-8 pages of prose (fiction or creative nonfiction) and/or poetry in English. Critical essays will not be accepted.

c) A writing sample of no more than 3 pages in response to the following:

- In our daily lives, we navigate many different roles—student, sibling, daughter, son, peer. We negotiate family, friends, religious groups, as well as class, gender, race, country, and so many other groups, adjusting the way we speak or behave to fit the demands of each encounter. As we move through the day, we work through how and why we occupy each particular role. What do you consider to be the strongest, most central aspects of your identity? What does it mean to you to be a member of (or seen as a member of) a particular group? In what way does your identity influence you as a creative writer and reader?

d) A brief statement of purpose (no more than 250 words), written in English describing why writing is important to the applicant's life, and what he/she hopes to learn at BTL.

All writing samples must be sent in 12-point font and have one -inch margins all around. The final selection of participants will be determined by ECA and IWP. In addition to the ten students selected, several students will be chosen as alternates.

Requirements for Chaperone:

- Chaperones should be between the ages of 25-40 as of July 14, 2018;
- Be proficient in English (reading, writing, and speaking).
- A BTL chaperone should ideally be a teacher who is interested in creative writing and has not had previous exposure to the United States.
- The chaperones should be able to fully participate in English programming on creative writing and teaching methods, conducted in part by American teachers.
- Moreover, the chaperone must be reliable, mature, and willing and able to take on the dual responsibilities of their own program and the overall duties of overseeing the students.

Each chaperone nominee must submit a resume/CV and a brief statement of purpose (both in English) describing his or her proposed goals for the program and how his or her participation would benefit the program.

Application Deadline and inquiries:

Please submit your application no later than **March 30, 2018**.

Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants: Email completed application packages to JerusalemExchanges@state.gov; call 02-622-7161 or 050 204-2690 for more information.

Gaza Applicants: Email completed application packages to GazaExchanges@gmail.com