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Writers: Jakarta

## Bridging Cities: Exeter x Jakarta Creative Brief for Writers

### About the project

UNESCO Cities of Literature Exeter and Jakarta have been awarded a grant by the British Council as part of the UK-East Asia *Connections Through Culture* programme, which supports new cultural collaborations between East Asia and the UK. Exeter and Jakarta will work together to create a digital publication of original writing and artwork, which will be exhibited in local venues in Exeter and Jakarta.

Three writers from Exeter and three from Jakarta will be commissioned to write new pieces on the climate crisis. Writers will be supported by experienced writing mentors. These six original pieces will then be translated into the respective languages before being interpreted by artists from Exeter and Jakarta.

Writers will also be paired with one another—one per city—and participate in a short online conversation led by an external facilitator about their writing and the context within which it was written. These conversations will be transcribed and included in the digital publication.

Excerpts from writers' works will be exhibited alongside the artwork at exhibitions in Exeter and Jakarta, launching on Monday 30th September: International Translation Day. Contributors will read an excerpt from their work at the launch of their local exhibition and create an audio recording to be played at the international launch.

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### COMMISSION BRIEF

Jakarta City of Literature is **commissioning three writers from Jakarta to contribute one short piece of original previously unpublished writing each.** This can be either poetry or fiction with a maximum length of **1000 words or 80 lines of poetry.**

The commissioned piece should focus on the **environment and climate action.** You are encouraged to interpret this broad theme in your own way, but we recommend tying it back to your local area. We welcome submissions from writers and poets of all backgrounds and experiences.

To apply for this commission, you must be **living in Jakarta** and will need to submit the following information by **Friday 8th March 23:59 WIB:**

- Your name and biography - maximum 75 words.
- A sample of your writing, either published or unpublished.
- A 50-word proposed synopsis/abstract for an original piece of work.
- Why the project appeals to you - maximum 75 words.

Submit your application via [bit.ly/ExJakBC\\_writer](https://bit.ly/ExJakBC_writer) by **Friday 8th March 23:59 WIB.**



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Selected contributors will be contacted by EOD Friday 15th March. Due to staff limitations, we cannot offer individual feedback on rejected submissions.

## YOUR INVOLVEMENT

If selected, you will have until Friday 12th April to write the first draft of your work before it is shared with a mentor to read. You will then receive a virtual mentoring session, giving you the opportunity to experience constructive editorial discussions and develop your piece further. After the mentoring session, you will have additional time to edit your work.

Once your final piece is delivered, it will be translated into English and shared with a selected artist from Exeter for a visual response.

You will be paired with one of the selected writers from Exeter and read each others' written work before participating in an online conversation led by a relevant facilitator. These conversations will explore the contexts you wrote in, your creative practice, and the cities you live in. Transcriptions of these conversations will also feature in the digital publication.

The artwork created in response to your writing will be exhibited alongside curated excerpts and short biographies of you and the artist. The exhibition will include a QR code linking to the digital publication. This exhibition will launch with a celebratory event, to which you will be invited and asked to read an excerpt from your work.

## FEES

- £175 commission fee (approx. 3442786.73 IDR) for creating an original previously unpublished written work, recording a brief audio version, and a live reading of an excerpt.
  - Either poetry or fiction.
  - Maximum length 1,000 words (or 80 lines if submitting poetry).

## KEY DATES

- **Friday 8th March 23:59 WIB:** Deadline for application/submission.
- **EOD Friday 15th March:** Chosen contributors contacted.
- **Monday 18th March - Friday 12th April:** First draft writing period.
- **Monday 22nd - Friday 26th April:** A virtual mentoring session with an experienced creative writer.
- **Monday 29th April - Thursday 16th May:** Second draft writing period.
- **Friday 17th May 23:59 WIB:** Finished written pieces delivered.
- **Monday 1st - Friday 5th July:** A 30-minute virtual conversation about your writing and individual contexts, facilitated by an experienced climate activist/writer.
- **Friday 30th September 7-8pm<sup>1</sup>:** Live reading of excerpt - Exhibition Launch.
- **Friday 30th September - Wednesday 30th October:** Exhibition in place at [VENUE TBC]



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<sup>1</sup> *Subject to change*