

## ***Writing Retreat for Postgraduate Research Students***

UWA Albany Campus

31<sup>st</sup> January – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010



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### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

#### **Overview**

The postgraduate writing retreat is designed to provide students with a supportive space in which to prioritise writing and thinking about research. The objectives of the Retreat are to establish writing as an essential tool in research and to provide an experience that will better prepare students to successfully negotiate the process of writing throughout their candidature and beyond.

The specific aims of the retreat include assisting students to develop a more disciplined and inspired approach to writing, to critically examine and refine the overall structure of their work and to make significant progress on a predetermined section of the thesis or on a paper for publication. The Retreat incorporates workshops, works-in-progress presentations and individual consultations with Graduate Education Officers within an interdisciplinary, peer environment. The Retreat adopts an integrated approach to provide support for the process of writing, something that is important for postgraduate students working to the end of their first sustained major research and writing project.

There will be places for 16 students at the retreat, awarded on a competitive, needs basis by the Graduate Research School. (Please note that the retreat has NOT been designed to instruct students in the development of their English language skills).

Students must commit to attending the entire retreat. Travel and accommodation are provided, however students who choose not to use the chartered bus service provided by the GRS, or who wish to stay in alternative accommodation, will need to bear the cost themselves. Students will need to pay for some food costs. Students are required to apply for a place at the Retreat, with priority given to those approaching completion, as they will gain maximum direct benefit. The application form/coversheet is set out below.

#### **The Application Process**

Please complete the application form and provide:

- The personal details requested
- A 500 word statement outlining your motivations for and expectations of, attendance at the retreat
- A completion plan for the thesis; and
- A letter of support from your supervisor

Signatures from the applicant and coordinating supervisor are also required. The coversheet, along with the required documentation, must be delivered to the reception desk at the Graduate Research and Scholarships Office by **5pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009**.

### **Eligibility**

This Retreat is restricted to Masters by Research and PhD students who have completed the requirements for their Confirmation of Candidature, and whose milestones are recorded as being up to date on Student Connect. Milestones may be checked at [http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome/student\\_connect](http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome/student_connect).

### **Details**

Activities will include individual writing time, structured workshops, peer review and feedback sessions, and individual consultations. In order to tailor these activities to the needs and interests of the participants, students will be consulted by email in advance of the retreat. Participants will also be required to attend a pre-departure information session.

The retreat will draw on the expertise of Drs Sally Knowles and Cecily Scutt from Murdoch University. Sally has extensive experience in facilitating academic Writers Retreats and has also published on the role of writing in academic development. Cecily is an accomplished writer and facilitator. She has expertise in the use of creative techniques that lead to writing with new insights and new inspiration. The Graduate Education Officers, Michael Azariadis, Jo Edmondston and Krystyna Haq will also assist with facilitation.

The Retreat will be held from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010. We will leave Perth on the morning of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January and travel by bus to the UWA Albany Centre. The first Retreat activity will take place in the evening of Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> January. We will have the whole Albany Centre to ourselves, including access to a computer lab (with 16 computers), and a number of smaller rooms. There will be 24-hour access to the computer lab.

Accommodation will be "twin share", in apartments at the Frederickstown Motel, located 100 metres from the UWA Albany Centre. Accommodation costs will be covered and lunch and morning/afternoon tea will be catered for at no expense to participants. Students will, however, need to supply their own breakfast and dinner. The GRS will supply a bus and bus driver to transport students to Albany. Any students choosing not to take the bus will be responsible for their own travel and any costs incurred. Any students choosing not to stay at the Frederickstown Motel will be responsible for their own costs.

Participants will also be invited to attend a shorter, non-residential Retreat in Perth, in the second part of 2010.

### **More information is available from**

<http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/studentnet/resources/communities>

or simply contact any of the Graduate Education Officers by email or telephone:

[michael.azariadis@uwa.edu.au](mailto:michael.azariadis@uwa.edu.au) (ext. 1726)

[joanne.edmondston@uwa.edu.au](mailto:joanne.edmondston@uwa.edu.au) (ext. 7010)

[Krys.haq@uwa.edu.au](mailto:Krys.haq@uwa.edu.au) (ext. 2095)



**APPLICATION FOR A PLACE AT THE POSTGRADUATE WRITING  
RETREAT, 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY – 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010**

Student ID:

Family Name:

Other Names:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone contact: Home

Mobile

UWA/Work

Email contact:

School/s:

Degree:

International Student: Y/N

Commencement date:

Date of Confirmation of Candidature:

Maximum time limit:

Supervisor/s:

**This form must be accompanied by**

- A maximum 500 word statement addressing:
- Goals for the retreat (what do you plan to accomplish during the retreat?)
  - Why you should be chosen to participate in the retreat
  - Previous experiences with thesis writing, including problems or challenges you have encountered in the past, and your responses to those challenges

- Completion plan for your thesis, including goals that have been set for the retreat

- A statement of support from your supervisor(s)

**Signatures**

Co-ordinating Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_