

Creative Writing for Beginners – 4th-9th August 2026
led by Luca Serra, Creative Writing Tutor & Patrick Small, mentor & editor



A retreat for beginner or early career writers of short stories, journals, novellas and novels, interested in producing fiction and non-fiction.

Beginning with an introduction to writing fiction, this course leads participants through the essentials of the craft, including characterization, plotting, description, dialogue and editing towards an enhanced understanding of how novels and short stories are created. This retreat gives avid readers and beginner writers the skills and confidence to turn a love of the written word into practical habit. It introduces the key characteristics of creative writing with clarity and playfulness, supporting writers with stage-by-stage guidance as they assimilate and practice a range of creative methods.

There will be time to write alone, read aloud in a supportive group, receive one-to-one feedback and connect with your creativity amidst the spectacular beauty of Iona. This retreat will also include an optional workshop with Elizabeth Dunne, qualified hypnotherapist, on writer's block and the functioning of the brain in the creative process.

The Isle of Iona and the Argyll hotel is the perfect place for a summer wilderness adventure – offering great food and exceptional views overlooking the bay in the heart of Iona's village. From here you can explore the island's secluded beaches, hushed coves and wildflower meadows amidst the extraordinary changing light of sea and sky.

The Argyll Hotel is delighted to host this brand new retreat. They are offering a five night package for £1,500*, with room upgrades available at an extra cost. This covers your retreat fee and five night's dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation.

***10% discount available for bookings made before 31st January 2026!!**

ABOUT THE LEADERS

Luca Serra is an experienced creative writing tutor and mentor. His debut novel, *This is Home* (Leamington Books, January 2026), is an exploration of friendship, belonging and what it means to forge your place in the world far away from home.

Patrick Small is the editor of new writing magazine *Product* and has mentored scores of debut writers