



U.S. Department of State U.S. Embassy in Cairo

Between the Lines: International Writer's Program for Students

Extended Deadline for Applications: February 16, 2014

Description

In cooperation with the prestigious International Writing Program (IWP) at the University of Iowa, the U.S. State Department's Cultural Programs Division is pleased to announce an exchange opportunity for young writers from three regions: Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Russia and the United States - Between the Lines (BTL). The Program will take place at the University of Iowa from **June 21 – July 5, 2014**. These young writers will be immersed in one of the premier creative writing environments of the United States as part of an exchange that will broaden and sharpen their writing skills, deepen their understanding of American society, and build bridges with young American writers who will also participate in creative writing classes. Program activities will include writing workshops in both English and Arabic, seminars on literary topics, cultural visits, and other local events. At the culmination of the program, the students' writings (in both English and Arabic) will be collected into a printed booklet to be used for educational purposes.

Eligibility Criteria

All students must be:

- Citizens, nationals or permanent residents qualified to hold a valid Egyptian passport.
- Between the ages of 16 and 19 as of June 21, 2014 and proficient in Arabic and English (reading, writing, and speaking).
- Demonstrate an interest in and ability to write creatively (fiction and/or poetry) and fully engage their imaginations in a variety of class settings.

Application Instructions

All applicants are required to submit: a copy of passport or ID, updated CV, application form (to be downloaded from this link: <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/pa/xchgs.html>) and all the following samples to ExchangesCairo@state.gov indicating the name of the program in the subject.

(Remark: All writing samples must be sent in 12-point font and have one-inch margins all around)

- A) 6-8 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction only) in English. School essays and other non-fiction writing will not be accepted.
- B) 6-8 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction only) in Arabic (different than the sample provided in English)
- C) A statement of purpose (250 words maximum, in English) describing why creative writing is important to her/him and their life, and what he/she hopes to learn at Between the Lines program in Iowa
- D) 2-5 pages of creative work (poetry and/or fiction ONLY), in either language (Arabic or English), in response to one (1) of the following writing prompts:
 - 1- One day, you (or your main character) sit down at your kitchen table only to find that there is someone already there. Who is sitting across from you? Why are they there? Write a short story or poem.
 - 2- Write a story or poem inspired by the following statement: "Searching for love is good, but finding love when you weren't looking for it is better."