

# TWENTY-ONE OTHER WAYS TO GET THERE

An Alternative Map to a Writer's Education

BY EMMA KOMLOS-HROBSKY

**T**HE MFA is just one of many ways to develop your voice and your skills as a writer. If you're drawn to the idea of connecting with like-minded writers, learning from the authors you admire, or workshopping a manuscript—but don't necessarily want or need the MFA credential—consider the wealth of non-degree writing classes offered across the United States and online. Often taught by contemporary literature's biggest names and rising stars, quality writing classes can offer an afternoon of inspiration on a given topic, a season—or even a year—of sustained work on a project, or any number of lengths and styles of engagement in between. Look for classes with “workshop” in the title to find sessions in which you'll likely receive peer feedback. “Intensives” or “seminars” tend to be one-day events focused on a single topic, and “generative” classes mean you'll be putting pen to paper. Count on the organizations below for worthwhile classes led by top-notch faculty. Looking for even more options? Check your local library for free workshops, see if a literary magazine you admire offers classes, or look at a favorite writer's website or social media channels to see where they'll be teaching next.

## PACIFIC COAST

### Hugo House

Seattle, Washington  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available

EMMA KOMLOS-HROBSKY is the senior editor of *Poets & Writers Magazine*.

[hugohouse.org](http://hugohouse.org)

### Literary Arts

Portland, Oregon  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
[literary-arts.org/events](http://literary-arts.org/events)

### Tin House Seminars and Craft Intensives

Portland, Oregon  
Online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
[tinhouse.com/workshop](http://tinhouse.com/workshop)

### UCLA Extension

Los Angeles, California  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
[uclaextension.edu/writing-journalism](http://uclaextension.edu/writing-journalism)

### Beyond Baroque

Venice, California  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available; some free classes  
[beyondbaroque.org/workshops.html](http://beyondbaroque.org/workshops.html)

## MIDWEST & MOUNTAIN WEST

### Writers' League of Texas

Austin, Texas  
Online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
[writersleague.org/programs/classes](http://writersleague.org/programs/classes)

### Lighthouse Writers Workshop

Denver, Colorado

Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
lighthousewriters.org/workshops

**StoryStudio Chicago**  
Chicago, Illinois  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
storystudiochicago.org

**The Loft**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
loft.org/classes/about-classes

**Madison Writers' Studio**  
Madison, Wisconsin  
In-person and online  
Fiction and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
madisonwriters.com

**NORTHEAST**

**GrubStreet**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
grubstreet.org

**Pioneer Valley Writers' Workshop**  
Northampton, Massachusetts  
Online; may return in-person  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
pioneervalleywriters.org

**Thought Fox Writers Den**  
Stonington, Connecticut  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
thoughtfox.org/classes

**Gotham Writers Workshop**  
New York, New York  
In-person and online

Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available; some free classes  
writingclasses.com

**Center for Fiction**  
Brooklyn, New York  
In-person and online  
Fiction and nonfiction  
centerforfiction.org

**One Story**  
Brooklyn, New York  
Online  
Fiction  
Financial aid available  
one-story.com/learn/take-a-class

**Sackett Street Writers' Workshop**  
Brooklyn, New York  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
sackettworkshop.com/writing

**MID-ATLANTIC & SOUTHEAST**

**Blue Stoop**  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
bluestoop.org

**WriterHouse**  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
In-person and online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
writerhouse.org

**Hub City Writers Project**  
Spartanburg, South Carolina  
Online  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
hubcity.org/workshops

**Key West Literary Seminar**  
Key West, Florida  
In-person  
Poetry, fiction, and nonfiction  
Financial aid available  
kwls.org/writers\_workshops