

TICE CREATE Stage: **CREATIVE WRITING** Project 2

Title: Tell us a story... write us a script. It's about to get emotional!

Project Outline: Seaton Delaval may have been one of the architects Sir John Vanbrugh's smallest country houses, but it was home to the larger than life Delaval family. The house and surrounding landscape were in keeping with the style expected in Georgian society, yet behind the formality lies a story of theatrical mischief...



Pick this project if you are interested in: Long form creative writing, prose or script – and allowing your imagination to come to life.

Known as the 'Gay Delavals' due to their high spirited and flamboyant lifestyle, an invitation to one of the Delaval family's parties was the hottest ticket in town. In an age notorious for extremes of behaviour, they stood apart as the most notorious of all Georgian partygoers and pranksters. Imagine waking in the house to find your room "turned upside down" with furniture fixed to the ceiling. It was that scene from like *The Twits*... but real.

Enter a world where an extraordinary lifestyle was acted out in the most colourful way. The Delavals loved a performance, staging events from rope-dancers and sack races outdoors to masquerade balls and even their own theatrical productions, which earned rave reviews at the time.

Prose Once upon a time... Mslexia Magazine has sent us a creative brief. How will your character fare?

"Start with your central character in a highly emotional state about something, then over the course of your story leave them with a completely different, ideally opposite, emotion. For example, anger to guilt; disgust to desire; fear to bravery."

Whether you choose long form prose, or a script, I want you to take us on a journey that conjures up a sense of this extraordinary place and all the history that it holds. There are no limits on either word count, or your imagination.

Which companies will you be working with? The National Trust will be our hosts at Seaton Delaval Hall (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/seaton-delaval-hall>) and you'll be set a live creative brief by Mslexia Magazine (<https://mslexia.co.uk/>).

Your 3 Training Days may look like this:

Day one: The first day of our project will be dedicated to exploring creative writing forms in more depth and will be based at Northumbria University.

Day two: Off we go to Seaton Delaval Hall where you'll spend the day exploring and thinking about the story you want to tell us – either in prose or script form.

Day three: You'll spend the day working on and pulling together your work, using an IT Suite at Northumbria University.

Your Mentor is: Katherine Wildman (Writing)