



CREATIVE SEMESTER

Program Outline and Areas of Creative Practice

DAILY SCHEDULE

Morning Period: 10:00 -12:30

Lunch: 12:30 – 2:00

Afternoon Period: 2:00 – 4:30

Free time: 4:30 – 6:30

Dinner: 6:30 – 7:00

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Creative Semester is built around five interconnected parts: **Creative Practice Blocks, Peer Exchange, Creative Conversations, Community Projects, and one-to-one Mentorship.** Together, they create a rhythm that balances structured learning with time to make, individual practice with collaboration, and creative freedom with guidance and accountability. You'll develop your own work within your chosen concentration, exchange ideas across disciplines, encounter new creative perspectives, contribute to shared projects, and meet regularly with a mentor who helps you make the most of it all.

CREATIVE PRACTICE BLOCKS

Creative Practice Blocks are dedicated periods of time for focused work within your chosen area of practice. While the structure varies by discipline, these sessions provide the time, accountability, and creative community needed to move projects forward.

Writers may be drafting and sharing work, Visual Storytellers rehearsing scenes together, preparing for shoots or reviewing edits, and Visual Artists developing personal projects in the studio. Guided by mentors and supported by peers, students learn how to balance independent initiative with collaboration, feedback, and creative discipline.

Creative Practice Blocks make up the majority of your time on the program.

PEER EXCHANGE (Once per week)

Small, cross-disciplinary groups meet regularly to share work, exchange ideas, and offer thoughtful feedback. Whether presenting a scene, a photograph, a short film, a piece of writing, or an unfinished idea, students learn to articulate their intentions, receive feedback, and engage meaningfully with the creative work of others. These conversations encourage reflection, build confidence, and help students see their work through new perspectives.

CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS (Once per week)

Bringing the entire community together, these sessions explore the work and ideas of artists, writers, filmmakers, and creative practitioners from around the world. Through guest speakers, museum visits, films, readings, and discussion, students are introduced to a wide range of creative voices and perspectives while reflecting on their own developing practice.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS (Ongoing)

Community Projects bring students together around shared creative goals. Whether producing a publication, curating an exhibition, creating a performance, documenting the semester, or contributing to a collective project, students learn to collaborate across disciplines while combining their individual strengths and perspectives. These projects foster teamwork, creative problem-solving, and the experience of building something meaningful together.

MENTORSHIP (Once per week)

Each student is paired with a mentor who meets with them weekly throughout the semester. These conversations provide guidance, encouragement, accountability, and personalized feedback, helping students move projects forward, navigate challenges, and make the most of their experience. As ideas evolve and confidence grows, mentors support students in developing greater independence, self-awareness, and ownership of their creative practice.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Each participant chooses one area from: Visual Art, Creative Writing or Visual Storytelling:

VISUAL ART

Painting | Drawing | Ceramics

Experiment with materials, develop your technique and make work that is distinctly your own.

Painting, drawing and ceramics come together in a shared exploration of making, materials and visual expression. You might arrive most interested in painting, drawing or ceramics, but you'll have the freedom to work across different media, build your technical skills and discover how one way of making can influence another.

Experiment with oils, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, pencil and ink; work from observation both in the studio and around Normandy; and explore wheel throwing, hand-building, glazing and firing in ceramics. Technical demonstrations and individual guidance give you a strong foundation, while dedicated creative practice gives you the time to experiment, develop your technique and take projects in your own direction.

Throughout the semester, you'll work on both guided and self-directed projects, drawing inspiration from the landscapes, people, museums and places you encounter in France. As your ideas develop, you'll build a collection of original work to bring together in the final exhibition.

Three workshops weave through the program, providing a shared foundation while leaving plenty of room to develop your own interests:

DRAWING & OBSERVATION

Develop your ability to look closely and translate what you see onto the page. Explore line, form, perspective, composition and mark-making using charcoal, pencil, ink and other drawing materials, working both in the studio and out in the landscape.

PAINT, COLOUR & COMPOSITION

Experiment with oils, acrylics and watercolor while exploring colour, surface, light and composition. Work from observation, photographs and your own ideas, developing both technical confidence and a more personal approach to painting.

CLAY, FORM & CERAMICS

Explore clay through wheel throwing, hand-building and sculptural work, learning the processes of forming, glazing and firing. Experiment with surface, texture and three-dimensional form while developing pieces of your own.

CREATIVE WRITING

Fiction | Poetry | Creative Nonfiction

Find your voice, follow what fascinates you and turn ideas and experience into writing.

Explore fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction through a mix of workshops, writing exercises, reading, discussion and dedicated time to write. Experiment with character, dialogue, voice, point of view, imagery and structure, drawing inspiration from your own imagination and experiences as well as the people, places and landscapes you encounter in France.

Write in cafés, markets, museums and out in the Normandy landscape; respond to art, conversations and unfamiliar places; and discover how observation, memory and research can become material for your work. Regular feedback, one-to-one mentorship and dedicated creative practice give you the space to develop ideas, revise your writing and take projects in your own direction.

Throughout the semester, you'll create both short pieces and more sustained work, building towards a collection of original writing and a final reading.

Three workshops weave through the program, giving you new ways to approach the page while developing your own voice:

VOICE, CHARACTER & POINT OF VIEW

Explore what gives writing its distinctive voice. Experiment with character, dialogue, perspective, tone and narration across fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction.

WRITING FROM PLACE

Turn the world around you into material. Use observation, memory and research to write from landscapes, cities, museums, markets and everyday encounters, exploring how place can shape story, character and language.

CRAFT & REVISION

Take an idea from first draft to finished piece. Explore structure, scene, imagery, rhythm and editing, learning how to develop, reshape and strengthen your work through revision.

VISUAL STORYTELLING

Acting | Film | Photography

Three disciplines united by the art of telling stories in front of and behind the camera.

Acting, film and photography come together in a shared exploration of visual storytelling. You might arrive most interested in performing, filmmaking or photography, but you'll work as part of one creative group, discovering how these different perspectives shape what happens in front of and behind the camera.

Through practical classes, workshops and creative projects, explore on-camera performance, directing, cinematography, photography, lighting, sound, composition and editing. You'll have opportunities to go deeper in the areas that interest you while gaining an understanding of how the whole creative process comes together.

Put it into practice through projects including a collaborative magazine and photo shoot, short-form visual experiments, and an original five-minute fictional film created together from first idea through final edit.

Three workshops weave through the program, building a shared language for creating stories through the lens:

VISUAL STORYTELLING

Explore how filmmakers and photographers use framing, sequence, perspective, movement, light and sound to shape a story. Look closely at the work of filmmakers and image-makers, from Robert Bresson and other influential directors to contemporary film and photography, and experiment with these ideas in your own work.

CAMERA, LIGHT & SET

Get hands-on with the practical language of filmmaking and photography. Learn camera operation, lenses, exposure, composition, lighting, sound, shot construction and basic set-ups, with opportunities to put those skills into practice on shoots and collaborative projects.

ACTING & DIRECTING FOR CAMERA

Explore what changes when performance moves in front of the lens. Actors work on presence, listening, character and truthful on-camera performance, while directors learn how to

communicate with performers, shape a scene, block for camera and make choices about coverage and performance. Work together to rehearse, shoot and refine scenes.