The Institute for World Literature

The Institute for World Literature (IWL) has been created to explore the study of literature in a globalizing world. As we enter the twenty-first century, our understanding of “world literature” has expanded beyond the classic canon of European masterpieces and entered a far-reaching inquiry into the variety of the world’s literary cultures and their distinctive reflections and refractions of the political, economic, and religious forces sweeping the globe.

Many people are now interested in teaching courses in world literature and in pursuing research within a global framework, but few programs in comparative or even world literature have yet established ways to train scholars and teachers to do such work on a broad basis. Meeting for four weeks each summer, in locations from Beijing to Istanbul to Harvard and beyond, the Institute is global in its presence as well as its intentions. With its headquarters at Harvard University and partners around the world, the IWL seeks to offer training in world literature in global perspective, and to provide the basis for ongoing community and exchange long after each session ends.

2016 Application Instructions

Applicants should submit all application materials to the CLS office. A review committee will select the CLS representatives for the 2015 IWL workshop at Harvard.

Required Application Materials:

Application materials must be submitted to the CLS office by December 4, 2015.

- An up-to-date curriculum vitae.
- A “Statement of Academic Interests and Plans.” This should be a statement of no more than 300 words describing current scholarly interests and plans, as well as specific indications of how attendance at the Institute for World Literature might further those interests and plans. The statement should include information about courses taken and/or taught in comparative and world literature and theory.

Once the review committee has selected the two CLS representatives, the students will then need to go directly to the IWL website to submit their application. Below is the link to the IWL application:

http://iwl.fas.harvard.edu/pages/online-application