

THE SCHOOL OF MAKING THINKING

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Applying to SMT's Summer Programs

How much does SMT cost?

Our 3 week programs are \$900, 2 week program \$600, and our 6 day session in April is \$300.

Who is eligible to apply?

Anyone older than 18 (for legal reasons we cannot accept anyone younger than 18).

When are applications due?

Applications for the Summer 2017 program will be available February 4th and will be due on March 1st.

When will I be notified if I am accepted?

EXPERIMENTAL DIALOGUES: March 15

CON/TEXT: APRIL 1

ALL OTHER SESSIONS: APRIL 15TH

How long is each session? How many sessions are there?

EXPERIMENTAL DIALOGUES: 6 DAYS

CON/TEXT: 2 WEEKS

IMMERSION: 3 WEEKS

PERFORMING • PLAYWRITING: 3 WEEKS

Do I need to stay at SMT for the entire duration of a session?

We strongly encourage participants to commit to an uninterrupted stay at SMT. We understand, however, that residents have obligations outside of the residency and that this is not always possible. If you do need to miss part of a session, know that that time moves quickly at the School of Making Thinking and untold adventures may transpire in your

absence. Re-entry will be disorienting. Also, please note that the program will charge a modest transportation fee for additional trips to and from the bus station.

Please provide as much information as possible in your application regarding your availability. Participations that need to miss large sections of the program or critical junctures (the beginning for instance) will be given less priority than applicants who can commit to the entire session.

Is there an application fee?

Applying to SMT is free.

I want to apply to SMT but can't afford the tuition. Does SMT offer applicants financial assistance?

We are offering a limited number of partially subsidized tuitions for 2017 residents. If you would like to be considered for this, please indicate in your application your needs and we will try to accommodate.

Additionally, past residents have been resourceful in finding funding for SMT. Some options include: personal fundraising, applying for grants and subletting one's apartment.

What materials do I need to prepare for my application?

The main components of the application are your CV, your online work, and the more substantive questions of the online application.

What do we look for in a candidate?

Most importantly we are looking for someone with a creative / intellectual practice that fits SMT's philosophy. We also look for people with experience in their creative field. And we require that people have experience living with others in a communal setting.

Can I apply with a collaborator?

Yes! If you are applying with a collaborator, please make sure to mention this clearly in your application. Each collaborator should submit her own application, though the project proposal can be identical. Other aspects of the application may be different (for example, your bios or experience living in communal settings). Please note that the session fee is per person, not per project.

I identify as LGBTQI. Will I feel comfortable at SMT?

Yes! SMT works hard to make all its residents feel comfortable during their stay, and we value having a diverse community

I am a person with a disability. Will SMT be able to accommodate me?

Unfortunately, the property where SMT will be held this summer is not wheelchair accessible. If, however, you are a person with a disability who does not rely on a wheelchair, we welcome your application. In your application, please make it clear what you will need in order to feel at home as an SMT resident. SMT works hard to make all its residents feel comfortable during their stay, and we value having a diverse community.

If I have already attended SMT can I apply again for this summer?

Yes! All applications will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers external to the SMT community so alumni should present themselves on the applications with this in mind.

What is SMT's application review process?

All SMT applications will be reviewed by an external panel of reviewers. Following this review process SMT will conduct online interviews.

What is SMT looking for in an application?

SMT considers 3 things when considering applicants to our program:

- 1- A person's background as an artist or thinker. What sort of experience do you have with your creative practice?
- 2- How well does an application fit our particular kind of residency program with our specific mission statement and values. (read our Overview page)
- 3- How well does an applicant fit into the particular session with its structure and themes?

Living at SMT's Summer Programs

Where is SMT Located?

We have three different locations this summer.

EXPERIMENTAL DIALOGUES: Krumville, NY

CON/TEXT: Rochester Folk Art Guild, Middlesex, NY

IMMERSION: Wilmington, NC (@ [Cucalorus](http://www.cucalorus.org/): <http://www.cucalorus.org/>)

PERFORMING • PLAYWRITING: tbd, NY

Both Krumville and Middlesex properties are rural locations in the Catskills with dozens of acres and multiple buildings on the property. The Wilmington location is associated with the film festival and residency Cucalorus.

What does a typical day at SMT look like?

A “typical” day at SMT during the 2017 season will depend largely on which session, and which day of the session. Nonetheless, this description (based on previous summers) might be helpful:

People tend to get up whenever they like and prepare a breakfast and/or lunch of their choosing. Mornings and early afternoons are times when people tend to work individually on their projects. In the mid-afternoon we hold workshops, talks, performances and classes that are connected to participants’ projects. Dinner, usually a collective meal, is held around 7 or 8pm. After dinner there is often a planned or impromptu activity.

Will I get my own room? Will I have enough privacy at SMT?

Residents will not receive their own room; each bedrooms will contain two to three beds. However, the property’s barn is very large and the property is even larger. There will be ample places for private work and contemplation.

How do meals work?

Breakfast and lunch are prepared by residents themselves on an individual basis. Dinners are typically prepared in groups of 2-3 according to a rotating schedule. The price of tuition includes all food. As the session moves into the 2nd or 3rd week we usually provide collective dinners less often to give residents more time to work on their projects.

What kind of food is there?

Since many of our residents are vegetarians, most of our food is vegetarian. A couple nights a week dinners with meat or poultry may be prepared, but they are always accompanied by a vegetarian option.

We do our very best to provide residents with healthy and plentiful food options. However, because keeping SMT affordable for its residence is a priority, expensive or specialty food items will be kept to a minimum.

I’m vegan and / or I don’t eat gluten. Will I go hungry at SMT?

No! We’ve happily hosted vegan / non gluten eaters in the past. We do our best to make sure everybody has enough to eat.

Can I invite guests? For how long can they stay?

Yes! We will soon determine our guest policy. However in the past we have dedicated particular weekends for guests to visit and asks guests to pay a minimal fee for staying overnight. Please check in with the staff of the session you are applying to for more information.

I have my own vehicle. Can I drive to SMT and park it there for the duration of my stay?

Absolutely!

I don't own my own vehicle. How do I get to and from SMT?

Each residency location is accessible via public transportation.

For our Middlesec location we will arrange pickup from the Trailways Bus stop at Geneva, NY.

For our Krumville location we will arrange pickup from the Short Line Bus stop at Kingston, NY.

For our Wilmington location we will arrange pickup from the Wilmington airport or bus terminal .

What should I pack?

A complete packing list will be provided to accepted applicants. In the past residents have brought one-week's worth of clothing which includes some warm clothes (it can get cold at night). We will have laundry facilities available and washing clothes usually occurs on a weekly basis. In addition to this residents are required to bring all creative materials needed for their projects with them.

What kinds of art materials will be supplied by SMT?

As a rule we require all residents to bring all materials they need for their projects. We will have a modest amount of materials available to residents. This will include: paper, pens and pencils, chalkboard and a printer. In addition we will most likely bring an odd assortment of "stuff" that you are welcome to sort through and use (for examples: old artist books, lace, tape, etc)

What is the ratio of staff to residents?

For our Sessions at the Yellow House this summer we will have 3 staff members and between 9-11 residents. SMT makes sure that the number of returning residents or staff at any session does not exceed 50% of any session.

How does SMT pay for itself?

We strive to keep tuition for SMT's summer residency program and NYC classes as low as possible via fundraising campaigns and events. We receive support from Abrons Arts Center in our effort to pay teachers in NYC a fair wage during the academic year. We also shop the warehouse at Materials for the Arts for donated art supplies. SMT staff and board members are paid a modest stipend for their work planning and hosting residency programs.

