



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DELLA
BASILICATA

INTERNATIONAL WRITING COURSE 2026

THE TEACHERS

Rubén Abella, is the author of six novels —Dice la sangre [Blood Speaks] (winner of the Castilla-León Critics Award in 2025), Ictus [Stroke] (2020), California (2015), Baruc en el río [Baruc in the River] (2011), El libro del amor esquivo [The Book of Elusive Love] (finalist of the prestigious Nadal prize in 2009), and La sombra del escapista [The Shadow of the Escape Artist] (winner of the Torrente Ballester prize in 2002)—; a book of short stories —Quince llamadas perdidas [Fifteen Missed Calls] (winner of the Kutxa prize in 2020), and two collections of flash fiction — Los ojos de los peces [Fish Eyes] (2010) and No habría sido igual sin la lluvia [It Wouldn't Have Been the Same Without the Rain] (winner of the Mario Vargas Llosa NH prize in 2007)—. He is also a photographer and a teacher at Escuela de Escritores and Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid.

Sandra Buljanović Simonović (1977), born in Zenta, grew up in Belgrade in a multilingual, multi-ethnic family. She has lived in four countries and two streets without moving. She teaches Hungarian language as L2 and literary translation of Hungarian literature at the University of Belgrade. She works as a literary translator. She regularly participates in scientific conferences in the field of theory and technique of literary translation and methodology of teaching foreign languages. She organizes and participates in literary translation workshops and events that promote contemporary European literature. She speaks Hungarian, Serbian, Croatian, English and Italian language.

Maria Chatzikyriakidou was born in Piraeus, Greece, in 1980. She holds a Ph.D. in Italian and Comparative Literature from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, where she also completed her undergraduate and postgraduate studies in Italian Language and Literature. She additionally holds a degree in Spanish Language and Culture from the Hellenic Open University, as well as a degree in Medical Laboratory Technology from the Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki. She worked as contract lecturer at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (academic year 2022–2023) where she taught History of Italian Literature and Comparative Literature. Her research interests focus on the field of cultural interactions between Italy and Greece in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with particular emphasis on Surrealist and Hermetic literature, travel writing and women's writing. She has translated literary works from Italian and Spanish into Greek, including works by Cesare Pavese, Pier Paolo Pasolini, Italo Calvino, Giuseppe Ungaretti, Eugenio Montale, Dino Buzzati, Mario Tobino, Milo De Angelis and Horacio Quiroga.



Charles Kayssieh, 21 years old, studies computer science at Télécom Paris. His grandfather passed on to him a love of storytelling, and he first practiced it keeping the logbooks of his scouting expeditions. A keen hiker, he value the attention it invites: to landscapes, to encounters, to the paths taken. A reader of Albert Camus and an admirer of Jacques Brel, he find himself drawn to a literature of restraint, where what is left unsaid carries as much weight as what is. He write to recover, in the most discreet human trajectories, what is passed on without ever being named.

Ulf Peter Hallberg, Swedish writer living in Berlin since 1983. Cosmopolitan novels: *The Flâneur's Gaze*, 1993; *Grand Tour*, 2005; *Legends & Lies* 2007, *European Trash*, 2008; *Strindberg's Shadow in the Paris of the North* 2012, *Berlin Transit* 2019, *The Messenger from The North* 2023, *The Secret Life of Time* (2025). Three of his novels have been published in Italy by Iperborea, *Lo squardo dal flâneur* 2002, *Il calcio rubato* 2006, *Trash europeo* 2013. Hallberg has translated Walter Benjamin's *The Arcades Project. Paris, Capital of the 19th Century* into Swedish in 1990; he has received prizes from The Swedish Academy and The Royal Academy of Science both for his literary works and his translations. Since 2014 he teaches creative writing at UFR d'Études germaniques et nordiques, Paris-Sorbonne; since 2016 in collaboration with Felice Lisanti and Energheia in Matera. Hallberg was appointed Honorary Doctor at the Faculty of Philosophy at Lund University in 2024. In 2025 his novel *The Messenger from the North* was published in France by Gallimard. On July 6, 2026, he was awarded the Övralid Prize, one of Sweden's highest literary honors, founded in accordance with the testament of the 1916 Nobel Prize in Literature laureate Verner von Heidenstam (1859–1940). He is currently translating Shakespeare's *Collected Works* and has so far completed twelve plays, published in Volume I (2025) and Volume II (2026). A disciple of Federico Fellini, Jean-Luc Godard, and François Truffaut, Hallberg's literary work is deeply informed by cinematic storytelling, blending visual imagination with poetic precision and philosophical depth. He has made four films , the latest one in France at Musée Mac val: *Paris, je me souviens* (112 min).

Tra Bi Tova Christ-Salomon, 21, is an Ivorian writer and a student of Anthropological Sciences at Félix Houphouët-Boigny University in Abidjan. Inspired by his ninth-grade French teacher he discovered the richness of language and the power of storytelling. Deeply influenced by African voices and driven by questions of identity, injustice, peace, and human connection, he reads widely and writes across several genres, including poetry, fiction, and theatre. Through his work, he explores the fragile spaces between absence and presence, memory and silence, and the invisible bonds that connect human beings.