

Frequently asked Questions

I am a writer but I don't have any publications, is the Conference right for me?

Publication is not a requirement except for those applying for a fellowship or tuition scholarship. Please see the Admissions page for more details on these two types of financial aid.

What is the average age of those who attend the Conference?

Past Conferences have included a wide range of ages, generally from 20 to 90, with most attendees in their 30s and 40s.

If I am accepted, when will I be assigned to a workshop?

After acceptance notes have been sent and we receive deposits from those who will attend, we sort participants into workshops. Decisions are based on the faculty workshop leader choices noted on the applications. We do our best to give attendees one of their top choices.

Do I need a letter of recommendation?

We ask only those applying for the Middlebury College Student Scholarship (for current Middlebury College undergrads) to send a letter of recommendation, from a creative writing instructor. Often we receive nomination letters for fellowship and tuition scholarship applicants, but these are not required.

I'm having trouble uploading my manuscript in the online submission manager. Who should I contact to get some help with this?

Please contact Noreen Cargill in the Bread Loaf office at ncargill@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5286.

I am not very good with computers. Is it okay for me to apply by regular mail?

Please contact Noreen Cargill at ncargill@middlebury.edu or 802-443-5286 to discuss this question.

Can I apply in more than one genre?

Yes, it is possible to apply in more than one genre. Please fill out a separate application for each. Complete the first application process from start to finish. To apply in a second genre, simply enter the username and password you already created into the small box at the top left of the online submissions screen, and then click on "submit your work" to apply again in the different genre.

I would like to be considered for a spot as a general applicant should financial aid not work out. How do I do that?

To apply for financial aid and as a general applicant, fill out the online application as a general applicant, including creating a user name and password. Complete this first application process from start to finish. To apply the second time, for financial aid, simply enter the username and password you already created into the small box at the top

left of the online submissions screen, and then click on “submit your work” to apply again.

When applying in fiction or nonfiction, is it okay to submit more than one piece or do I have to submit only one piece that is up to 6,000 words?

It is okay to submit one or more shorter pieces as long as the overall word count is 6,000. It is possible to upload only one document to the online submissions program, so though it’s possible to send separate shorter pieces, all must be included in the same electronic document.

What if my piece of fiction or nonfiction is longer than 6,000 words, can I still send it?

If your piece is about 200 words over, that’s okay. Going over by 300 or more words is not acceptable.

I know I should send my best unpublished work with my application. If I’m accepted, will I have a chance to send a replacement manuscript that I really want feedback on during the Conference?

Yes, you will have a chance to send a replacement manuscript for workshop critique. We include more information about that in the acceptance materials.

When will notification letters be sent? Are early decisions possible?

Notification letters will be sent via e-mail in late May. Early notification is not possible as the admissions board members read and evaluate ALL applications before making final admissions decisions.

I will be moving before notification letters go out, should I still note a street address on my online application or is it okay to leave that blank and just use an e-mail address?

The program requires a street address so please do note your current mailing address. If you like, please use the “address 2” line to note that you will be moving.

I’m applying for a fellowship or tuition scholarship, do I still need to create an online account?

Those applying for the fellowship or tuition scholarship should not create an online account. Instead please print the application from the “How to Apply” web page, and send two sets of your materials to the following address (the postmark deadline is March 3):

Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference
14 Old Chapel Road
5525 Middlebury College
Middlebury VT 05753

Can I apply for two different types of financial aid?

No, it is not possible to apply for more than one type of financial aid. Please choose one type of award to apply for. If you’re not sure which type is the best fit for you, please

read the descriptions noted on the Admissions page. Also, reading the bios of last year's award winners might give you a better idea of what the admissions board members are looking for. The bios of fellows, tuition scholars, and Bread Loaf-Rona Jaffe Foundation Scholars are posted on our web site.

If I'm awarded a work-study scholarship, when will I receive my payment for the hours worked?

Work-study scholars receive their check for hours worked following the Conference (last year checks were mailed to work-study scholars one week after the session ended). The balance on accounts is due before the start of the Conference, but this fee is mostly offset by the payment received later.