

Maynooth University Writing Centre is committed to helping all students to become competent, flexible, fluent and enthusiastic writers.

Teaching and Learning

2473 one-to-one appointments since 2011
32 appointments per week during term opening hours
27 university departments/offices with whom we have worked directly since 2011

Research

16 publications by writing centre staff (including journal articles, book chapters, practice guides, book reviews)
€640 000 (approx.) in European COST Action funding

Community

5 summer writing institutes for teachers (SWIFT)
1 national writing network (Irish Network for the Enhancement of Writing – INEW)
36 trained Fighting Words volunteers

Students say: ‘The personalised guidance helped me to improve...’ ‘One to one help, knowledgeable tutors, comfortable setting ... easy to book appointments’, ‘The people were extremely nice and welcoming ... great advice ... helped me reference properly’, ‘it really helped me with structure’.

Students’ writing concerns

When students come to the centre their primary writing concerns are:

- revising/redrafting their work
- structure
- referencing and ‘mechanics’ (punctuation, spelling, grammar)
- pre-writing
- argument.

How we work and what we have learned as writing centre tutors

Writing is a process which involves different phases. When we work one-to-one with students we try to strike a balance between encouraging them to develop their own approach, and sharing our effective processes and technical knowledge.

We are learner-centred. We are committed to empowering students and to acknowledging that what they bring to the University contributes to the institution as a learning community.

We empathise with students. We believe ‘there is a tension between the expression of meaning and the sharing of it ... every expression shared contains risk’ (Bazerman, 2015: 22). We know that ‘all writers have more to learn’ (Rose, 2016: 59).

We can be contacted by email on writingcentre@mu.ie or through our Moodle space.