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

**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.

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**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.

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Irish Network for the Enhancement of Writing