



About the Tumbleweed programme

Throughout his life, George Whitman, the founder of Shakespeare and Company, travelled the world as a self-proclaimed Tumbleweed – blowing from place to place, sheltered by the grace of the strangers he met. With this in mind, he opened Shakespeare and Company in 1951, living by the motto ‘Be not inhospitable to strangers, lest they be angels in disguise’. Ever since, the bookshop has opened its doors to writers who’ve asked for a bed. Our current Tumbleweed programme proudly continues this tradition, offering a unique opportunity to stay at a bookshop in the heart of Paris, and to contribute to the city’s rich and extensive literary culture.

Successful applicants will have use of a studio (with private bathroom) within the bookshop building, filled with books should you be in need of literary inspiration. While you are free to fill your days in the studio as you choose, we hope this space will be conducive to many productive hours working on your writing project and reading. Typically, successful applicants will stay a minimum of one week and a maximum of one month with us.

While you’re here, you will not be asked to work in the bookshop, but we will ask you to help set up and support our weekly events. Before you leave, we ask all Tumbleweeds to leave a one-page autobiography for our archives. This autobiography should be typed and include your address, profession and a photo of yourself.

The Tumbleweed programme is designed to give writers the time, space and privacy to develop their craft. Therefore, we ask that you do not publicise your residency on social media (before, during, or after your stay) or pitch articles about your time here. Similarly, as you have privileged access to Shakespeare and Company, guests and visitors are not permitted during your stay as a Tumbleweed.

What we offer:

- A room with a view for living, working and writing, with a semi-equipped kitchen and private bathroom
- Bed linen and towels

What we don’t offer:

- Travel expenses or a living stipend
- Visa sponsorship, or other help with visiting/residency papers
- Laundry or concierge services
- Paid work

Tumbleweed programme application form

Please return your completed form to history@shakespeareandcompany.com

About you
Name:
Date of birth: <i>Please note, we cannot accept Tumbleweeds under the age of 18</i>
Email address:
Telephone no.:
Nationality: <i>You are responsible for ensuring you have the right to enter and stay in France for the duration of your stay at Shakespeare & Company</i>
Preferred dates to stay at Shakespeare & Company:

About your writing and reading
Tell us about your writing and the project you'd like to work on if accepted to the Tumbleweed Programme (you may also attach a writing sample of no more than 500 words if you like):
Tell us about a particular book you love and why it is important to you:
Tell us why you'd like to be part of the Tumbleweed Programme (include an explanation of why you'd like to stay at Shakespeare & Company in particular, and why you want to work on your project in Paris):