The Brown University Writing Center aims to support a diverse body of writers in the greater Brown community in developing critical thinking practices and effective approaches to writing in a variety of contexts. The Brown Writing Center achieves this goal through an emphasis on academic enrichment, peer mentorship, and scholarly collaboration across the disciplines. In doing so, we sustain Brown's commitment to preparing its members to engage with the wider world and to ensure their success beyond the institution.

Upon request, writing associates visit classes to discuss the Writing Center's services and writing process with students. Staff and associates assist with recruitment and applicant interviews, graduate and undergraduate resource fairs, Pre-Orientation and Orientation programs and events, a day on College Hill (ADOCH), monthly meetings, mentoring, and programing for the annual retreat.
The Writing Center associates engaged in 3,522 one-on-one consultations during the 2015-2016 academic year, a decrease of 8.61% from the 3,854 conferences in AY 2014-15. Staff hiring constraints, writing associates working fewer shifts, and other professional development opportunities for graduate students (i.e. 6th year funding Fellowships, Brown/Wheaton Faculty Fellows Program, and local teaching opportunities at Providence College and Bryant.) need consideration when assessing the decrease in consultations.

In addition to working one-on-one with Brown’s community of writers, writing associates attended monthly staff development meetings that focused on sharing writing consultation strategies and techniques. In late January, associates participated in the second annual Writing Center Associate Spring Retreat, “Conferencing Across the Disciplines.” Retreat facilitators - Joel Simundich, Writing Center Graduate Proctor, Jessica Tabak, Writing Fellows Program Graduate Fellow, and fellow writing associates, Rachel Meade and Rebecca van Laer – led and organized the retreat program.

Under the supervision of Lawrence Stanley, Interim Writing Center Director, Joel Simundich administered a one-day training for writing associate new-hires in October ’15. In addition to the new-hire training, Joel created and facilitated a Graduate Dissertation 4-Day Workshop that primarily focused on a dedicated space for dissertating graduate students. Fifteen graduate students initially enrolled, seven students attended all four days. The dissertation workshop was a success and feedback collected from the exit survey was positive overall. Two distinct survey take-a-ways, “four straight 6-hr days were a bit unwieldy,” and “It would be great if the Writing Center could provide a dissertation-writing space where people could come to write with other grads.”

In collaboration with Carolan Norris, Senior Associate Athletic Director of Student Athlete Services, the Writing Center piloted drop-in writing support services for nine hours twice a week (Sundays 3-8 pm/Thursdays 6-9 pm) at the Nelson Fitness Center. Our intention was to increase visibility of the writing center’s services among athletes, and to help address the difficult balance between academic and athletic commitments. Athletes received a survey explaining the Writing Center’s services and asked for feedback regarding the likelihood of them utilizing a drop-in resource during time-blocks that coincided with the majority of athletes’ schedules. The Center publicized the drop-in service throughout the athletic center – an intentional target audience – Facebook, and morning mail; drop-in hours commenced on March 6, 2016 and ended on April 28. Fifteen students took advantage of the service. Writing Center staff will reassess offsite drop-in services in fall 2016.
Writing Center Demographics

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Return Visitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-ELL</td>
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<td>Unique Visitor</td>
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<td>791</td>
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<tr>
<td>First-time Visitor</td>
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</table>

Consultations by Cohort

- UG ‘19: 1083
- UG ‘18: 869
- UG ‘16: 622
- UG ‘17: 531
- Graduate: 263
- Visiting: 96
- Other: 28
- Medical: 11
- Staff: 9
- Faculty: 9
- Alumni: 1

Client Feedback

Visitors receive an anonymous exit survey after each writing center visit: 97% reported that the associate listened carefully, 90% stated that the associate provided concrete suggestions, 78% indicated that the associate provided tips for future work, and 98% of the clients reported that would return to the Writing Center.

“I came in with a 10-page paper, wishing to edit it completely. He not only accepted it with open arms, but he read it through and then went through all the edits he made with me. It was a really great experience!”

“I appreciate how I could ask a lot of questions and receive actually helpful advice. Honestly the Writing Center is such a godsend. Thank you!”
WRITERS BY DIVISION

- ARTS & HUMANITIES: 66%
- SOCIAL SCIENCES: 27%
- LIFE SCIENCES: 5%
- PHYSICAL SCIENCES: 2%

Writing Type

- Academic Paper: 2927
- Application: 318
- Graduate Writing: 132
- Senior Thesis: 64
- Other: 36
- Professional Writing: 35
- Indy/Group Study: 10

Other: Commencement speech, blog article
Professional Writing: Journal articles, grant writing, faculty syllabi
Brownie byte

Elizabeth “Givens” Parr ’16

As an undergraduate I participated in the Writing Fellows Program and served as an Associate in the Writing Center. This work not only helped me develop skills that I will take into my professional life after graduation, but it also grounded me in the Brown community. Holding writing conferences with students across fields of study, political interests, and class years challenged me intellectually and personally. It was awesome to meet these individuals in a context where both of us were committed to refining their ideas and finding the best way to translate them into text.

Communication is a superpower, and Brown's Writing Center and Writing Fellows Program provide spaces for students to cultivate that superpower in themselves and others. The experiences I had as a Writing Fellow and Associate were some of the most humbling and practical of my undergraduate career.

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Interim Writing Center Director, Dr. Lawrence Stanley, and Manager of the Writing and Tutoring Programs, Janet Peters, oversee all aspects of the Writing Center and Writing Fellows Programs. In academic year 2015-16, the Writing Center employed 33 graduate writing associates across 13 disciplines, 5 undergraduate senior Writing Fellows, 2 seasonal professional writers, and 5 undergraduate student receptionists.

In January 2016, Dr. Stanley and Janet Peters attended the RI/MA Writing Center Director’s Roundtable at Rhode Island College, and then hosted twenty-two directors from Southern New England for the spring Roundtable on May 24, 2016. In effort to help Brown University’s Writing Center lead and foster writers – inside and outside of the Brown community – Brown’s Writing Center is committed to host the RI/MA Writing Center Director’s Roundtable in May 2017.

Dr. Lawrence Stanley and Janet Peters are pleased to announce the arrival of Dr. Stacy Kastner (August ’16), Associate Director of the Writing Center and Anne Kerkian (July ’16), Assistant Director of English Language Learning.