

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I want to participate?

This program is intended for translators at the start of their careers who require further training in translation, feedback from professional editors, experience with the practical side of translation, and most importantly, to have a book-length translation to their name. By working directly with Dalkey editors, participants are able to experience what it is like to have the standards of publishing applied to their translation work. Publishers are usually hesitant to work with a translator who does not have previous experience, and this program is designed to get emerging translators over this hurdle. In addition to the opportunity to have a book published, the program provides experience working with editors, writing reader's reports and translation samples, understanding contracts, marketing and distribution, and funding—all important matters that help translators further their careers.

Why did you start the program?

Because beginning translators have virtually nothing available to them in terms of practical training. The comparison can be made with creative writing: most universities now offer creative writing programs that are experience-based. There are no such programs available where translators work directly with a publisher, and certainly none that so directly lead to publication.

What is special about this program as compared to other programs offered to translators?

No other program that we are aware of spends so much time working with you on a translation and then will publish that translation. In addition to the translation itself, you also are given insights into the publishing process and oftentimes are involved in working with other publishers and agents in securing rights, and even in learning about and getting involved in the granting process, as well as learning about contracts and rights. There is no other program that provides all of these.

Is it possible to do more than one book-length translation while in this program, and will Dalkey publish it?

Yes, it is possible. However, any and all translations must be selected in the manner outlined below.

Am I guaranteed my translation will be published?

If you successfully complete the program, your translation will be published. It is expected that

close cooperation with Dalkey editors will ensure that the final translation is more than acceptable.

Will the finished translation be copy edited and returned to me for review?

All works published by Dalkey are edited. The translator participates in this process, but the author and publisher make final decisions about the translation. You will be able to proofread the edited translation for review before publication. One of the major themes of this program is to have you learn how to work with an editor in a cooperative fashion and to develop a trusting relationship. Both should have the same goal: to introduce the translation into the new language in the best possible condition.

Must participants be native English speakers?

No. We encourage applications from translators all over the world, and simply require that international applicants have a superior knowledge of English.

Who will decide what book I translate as my final project?

As soon as you are accepted into the program you should begin to identify 3–5 works you want to consider translating, making sure that they have not yet been translated into English. Participants will research, write reader reports, and choose the books themselves, preferably fiction (under the supervision of a Dalkey editor), and the final decision about the book to be translated will be made jointly. The book must be one that Dalkey would want to publish regardless of whether it came out of this program. Works can range from the modern period to the contemporary, but preference will be given to undiscovered writers, especially those who have not yet been translated into English.

I already know what book I want to translate. Can I be sure that this is the book that will be published?

As with all other books Dalkey Archive or any publisher agrees to publish, it must be a book that is accepted and is the kind of book that Dalkey would publish whether it came out of this program or not. The publisher decides what books it publishes.

Must I publish with Dalkey?

No. You are free to offer your translation to another publisher after you complete the program if you have not signed a contract with Dalkey. The translation work you do remains your own intellectual property.

Must I be familiar with Dalkey's books?

It will be a great help, because the better you know the kind of fiction that Dalkey publishes, the easier it will be for you to select books for consideration that will be compatible with the Press's aesthetic interests.

Are there particular languages that will be given preference?

The Press welcomes applications from all languages. However, applications will be especially appreciated from languages that are less frequently translated into English.

Must the translators be "young"?

There is no age restriction. All translators at an early stage in their careers are encouraged to apply. The applicants will be judged according to their individual merit and talent.

How long will it take to finish the program?

The training period lasts for three months, and the expectation is that you will have finished a rough draft by the end of the training period. Once a draft is submitted, a certificate will be bestowed. After a final draft of the translation is submitted and approved, a minimum of twelve months will be required before publication. You will pay for only the first three months of the program.

After the first book, will I be able to publish other books with Dalkey?

One of the goals of this program is to develop a group of well-trained translators with whom Dalkey can work in the future.

Why do I have to pay for this certificate program?

The tuition fee is determined by the University of Houston-Victoria and the state of Texas according to the costs for enrolling in and receiving credit in any of its programs.

Doesn't Dalkey Archive make a great deal of money from this program?

None of the money that students are charged goes to Dalkey Archive Press. In fact, Dalkey Archive assumes the financial responsibility of all costs of publication, which range from \$25,000 to \$35,000. In brief, Dalkey Archive loses money for each of the books it publishes from this program.

When must tuition be paid, and must it be paid all at once?

Tuition must be paid one week before the start of the program. The student may pay the entire tuition at once, or may split the credit hours, and therefore the tuition, between the semesters in which they are enrolled at UHV.

Are loans or scholarships available for this program?

Limited scholarships will be available from UHV. However, students requiring financial aid are encouraged to apply for external scholarships by completing the FAFSA form online. International students are recommended to look into scholarship opportunities from their own countries.

Can you tell me how much I will be paid for my translation?

That will depend upon how much money Dalkey has to raise through grant writing and money that it takes from its own budget. A minimum payment will be contained in the contract with the translator. The expectation, however, is that there will be grant money available.

When will I be paid?

You will be paid within 2 months of publication.

Will I be given a contract for the translation to be published?

Yes.

What if I have questions that haven't been answered above?

You can direct further questions to translation@dalkeyarchive.com.

Testimonials from past participants:

"Dalkey's translation program has been, by a very large margin, my most significant step into the world of translation and publishing. I'm currently working on my third book-length translation, and through Dalkey I've learned about numerous grants and residencies available to translators. I have difficulty imagining a better starting place for a young translator or writer."

"Dalkey's Applied Literary Translation Program has the benefit of giving new translators a recognized name behind them when reaching out to publishers and writers. Since completing the program, I've gone on to write readers' reports for the Press, work on proofreading upcoming publications, and attend the Frankfurt Book Fair."

"I've enjoyed having John O'Brien as a generous mentor and the opportunity to learn from his long career in publishing. I'd recommend the program to anyone who has a desire to gain hands-on experience in literary translation."