Summer 2019 Dissertation Writing Retreats

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development is pleased to offer TWO writing retreats for dissertation writers during Summer 2019. Open to graduate students from all departments who are at the dissertation-writing stage, these retreats offer extensive structured time to write and develop effective writing strategies alongside fellow dissertators.

**Dates of Retreat:**
Session 1: Friday, June 7 (9am-12pm) & Monday-Thursday (9am-5pm), June 10-13
Session 2: Friday, July 12 (9am-12pm) & Monday-Thursday (9am-5pm), July 15-18

**Schedule:** We will cover best writing practices in a 3-hour Bootcamp on Friday morning, giving you the weekend to rest and prepare for the week. Monday-to-Thursday, from 9am-5pm, will be structured time to work, reflect on, and experiment with best practices. *Participation for the entire retreat is mandatory; participants should not plan to arrive late or leave early.*

**During the retreat, graduate student writers will:**

- **Have sustained writing time** to develop effective rhythms for writing and make significant progress on a lengthy piece of writing.
- **Participate in a community of writers:** discuss their writing process, share goals, and offer support to build structures of accountability.
- **Experiment with best-practice writing skills** for things like drafting, goal setting, and time management.

We prioritize applicants who are seeking guidance in these areas and who are actively writing dissertation chapters.

These writing retreats will be offered at NO COST through the support of the Graduate School. **Childcare scholarships** for up to $150 per family will be available from the Graduate School. Lunch, coffee, tea, and snacks are provided on all writing days.

**How to apply:**
Acceptance in the program is competitive, and acceptance is based on the strength of the completed application form. **Participants must commit to attending the entire retreat to be considered for acceptance.** Preference is given to dissertation writers. MFAs and those at the prospectus/proposal stage, as well as prior participants, will be considered if space is available. **Complete this form to apply:** [http://bit.ly/OPDSummerRetreatApp](http://bit.ly/OPDSummerRetreatApp)

**DEADLINE:** Completed applications must be received no later than 11:59PM on Monday, April 15th, 2019 (Patriots’ Day). Applicants will be notified of their status on Friday, April 19, 2019.

Please contact the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at opdwriting@umass.edu or 413-545-5347 with any questions.