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Missed the #AmtrakResidency? Get aboard these unexpected writing opportunities

By [Michelle Nijhuis](#) on March 3, 2014 | [Leave a response](#)

You've heard the news, I imagine: Amtrak is [offering writing residencies](#). The plan is the brainchild of novelist [Alexander Chee](#), and it's brilliant, but it's been tweeted and posted so far and wide that you may wonder if the #AmtrakResidency waiting list is already longer than your own lifespan.

Never fear. Countless lesser-known writing residencies eagerly await your application. SciLancers Anne Sasso, Doug Fox, Jessica Marshall, Brian Vastag and I have rounded up a few, and the details are below.

(Cameron Walker will report in later this month with some more, er, realistic options. And if you'd like even more choices, Gawker has unearthed nine [other irresistible residencies](#).)

#DowntonResidency Write to your heart's content in the Abbey.
Upsides: Almost infinite choice of rooms. No cooking or cleaning required.
Downsides: Must dress for dinner. Risk of sudden, nonsensical personal tragedies.

#StarbucksResidency Free refills. Forever.
Upsides: Baristas promise not to make you order in faux Italian.
Downsides: You will be indistinguishable from other customers. And you will never sleep again.

#MontessoriResidency Like the idea of a bright, cheerful workplace with very small toilets? Try a residency at your nearest Montessori school.
Upsides: Pink-and-blue moveable alphabets allow one to work while prone. Golden beads allow easy tracking of word counts.
Downsides: Coworkers frequently disrespectful of "quiet time."

#MOMAResidency As the star of our newest performance-art installation, you'll create art while *being* art. Efficient, *n'est-ce pas*?
Upsides: Believe us, our staff can improve on your current office decor. Your lighting could use some work, too.
Downsides: Visitors may decide to "participate" in the installation in creative ways. MOMA accepts no responsibility.

#UnitedResidency Draft your magnum opus at one of our luxuriously appointed departure gates.
Upsides: We'll reserve a wall outlet for you. Unless, of course, they are already oversold, in which case you will be charged a fee for use.
Downsides: No extra peanuts, sorry. Also, you're at the *airport*.

#AirBnB Residency Trade your office space with any writer, anywhere.
Upsides: Travel to exotic locales. Stimulate senses with new surroundings. Distract yourself in novel ways.
Downsides: Usual sure-fire procrastination ploys—laundry, toilet cleaning, staring at fridge—may lead to suspicious questions from other writer's cohabitants. Then again, they've probably seen it all before.

#TardisResidency Pen your pan-galactic tales as you whip through space and time.
Upsides: Bigger on the inside, of course. Comes with assistant.
Downsides: Non-stop planet-shattering crises make it hard to concentrate. And no matter how comely your assistant, flirting is strongly discouraged.

#AfternoonBarResidency Fill an empty stool while outlining your draft on napkins.
Upsides: Bartender has time to listen to your complaints. May provide free beer if you are sufficiently pathetic.
Downsides: Fact-checking and copyediting abilities decline after a few rounds. Also, don't you already *have* this residency?

Image credit: [iStockphoto](#).

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Michelle Nijhuis

Michelle Nijhuis' award-winning reporting on science and the environment appears in *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and many other publications. A longtime contributing editor of *High Country News*, ... [MORE »](#)

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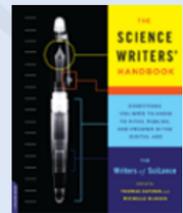
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