



The Wordsworth Conference Foundation announces
The Wordsworth Summer Conference, 2026
Monday 3 August to Thursday 13 August
Rydal Hall, Cumbria

Call for Papers and Bursary Applications

View from Fairfield showing (l to r) Windermere, Esthwaite Water, Loughrigg Tarn, Coniston Water, Grasmere. Photo: Sharon Tai

MADELEINE CALLAGHAN GREVEL LINDOP

JAMES MCKUSICK KAZ OISHI

EMILY ROHRBACH INÊS ROSA GENE STELZIG

HERBERT TUCKER PATRICK VINCENT

PAUL WHICKMAN SARAH ZIMMERMAN

Wordsworth Conference Foundation Website

<https://www.wordsworthconferences.org.uk/>

The 2026 Wordsworth Summer Conference at elegant Rydal Hall will be the 55th since Richard Wordsworth's inaugural conference gathering in 1970. This year we continue the format pioneered by Richard, mingling lectures, papers and lively academic debate with fell walking, picturesque rambles, and bus excursions to places of Wordsworthian and Romantic interest. Upper and Lower Rydal Falls are within the grounds of the Hall, and Rydal Mount—Wordsworth's home from 1813 until 1850—is a two-minute walk away.

By courtesy of the Wordsworth Trust, our opening night will include a candlelight visit to Dove Cottage. There will be a separate opportunity to explore the treasures of the Wordsworth Trust's collections. As in 2025, we will aim to continue our local focus for walks, climbs and excursions.

FORMAT AND COSTS

The Conference is in two parts of 5 days each, with a changeover day on Saturday 8 August when those participating in both parts of the conference enjoy an all-day fell walk or excursion. The **registration fee** for residents, which includes excursions, offers exceptional value at £280 for five days and £400 for ten days (£252 and £360 for Foundation Members/Friends). All resident participants will take all meals at Rydal Hall. These figures replace any previously issued for WSC 2025.

For full details of resident and non-resident rates, our terms and conditions, galleries of past conferences, and a registration page please visit the Foundation website: <https://www.wordsworthconferences.org.uk>

ACCOMMODATION

Enquiries about accommodation should be e-mailed to the Conference Administrator, Kira Welland, at

wordsworthsummerconference@gmail.com

Regular Participants:

Full Board for all is available at Rydal Hall Diocesan Conference Centre at prices ranging from £590 for a shared standard room for 5 nights to a maximum of £1490 for a front single occupancy for 10 nights. These figures replace any previously issued for WSC 2025.

PayPal:

Payments made through PayPal will incur a £10 surcharge to cover costs.

Bursaries for the 2026 Wordsworth Summer Conference:

Nine Bursaries of £450 are available for the 2026 conference.

4 Richard Wordsworth Bursaries for Postgraduate or Postdoctoral applicants working in English or Anglo-American Romanticism.

4 Ena Wordsworth Bursaries for Postgraduate or Postdoctoral applicants working on William or Dorothy Wordsworth or in the Field of English Romanticism.

We are delighted also to offer 1 Marilyn Gaull Bursary of £450, generously sponsored by the Wordsworth-Coleridge Association of America.

These bursaries are intended to enable young scholars to enjoy either half (five days) of the conference, or the full ten active and stimulating days in the unique environment of Rydal and Grasmere, for about half the cost of the event. Please bring this announcement to the attention of qualifying applicants.

Holders of bursaries will be so designated on the list of participants or the conference programme. The bursary will be applied in the first instance to conference fees, and the balance to accommodation in shared rooms in Rydal Hall.

All accommodation for bursary holders will be in either the Cottages or Bunkhouse. The Cottage rooms will be reserved for those Bursary students staying the full ten days. Bursary awards also entail a requirement to attend all academic events on the programme. By applying for a bursary you indicate your acceptance of these requirements.



Wordsworth Summer Conference IN THIS BUILDING. Photo: Nicholas Roe. Model: Jacob Risinger

Call for Papers

2026 marks the centenary of Ernest de Selincourt's publication of the parallel texts of the 1805 and 1850 *Prelude*, a landmark volume that shaped Wordsworth studies during the twentieth century and continues to do so today. 2026 is also 150 years since the publication of Wordsworth's *Prose Works of William Wordsworth*, a three-volume set edited by the Scottish scholar A. B. Grosart. In view of these Wordsworth anniversaries, we invite papers that will explore 'Wordsworth Texts' broadly considered, to embrace the poet's manuscript and printed texts in verse and prose, versions and editions up to the present. Papers may consider texts produced by the wider Wordsworth family (e.g. Mary Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth, Dora Wordsworth, Edward Quillinan) as well as critical, biographical, scholarly, and editorial commentaries from Wordsworth's time up to the present.

In addition to these topics, we also welcome proposals on any aspect of Wordsworth and his circle, and the Romantic period more broadly, including its influences and legacies.

Please note that participants presenting papers must attend as full participants for either Part 1 or Part 2, or the whole ten-day conference.

Papers should not be longer than 2750 words.

All proposals for papers, bursary applications (and references, if applicable) should be emailed by 15 May 2026 to

proposal.wsc@gmail.com

Regular participants:

200-word proposals for papers of no more than 2750 words, together with a brief autobiographical paragraph, unformatted, should occupy no more than 1 side of A4 in MS Word format. Please remember to include your name, institution and e-mail address on the abstract. Please do not send proposals as a PDF file as they will be copied into a composite MS Word document.

Bursary applicants:

Your application should be in the form of a Word attachment (not PDF) containing a paper proposal of 300 words, together with a short unformatted CV in the same file, the entire application being not more than two sides of A4 (the file will be copied and pasted into a composite file, so please avoid elaborate formatting). **Applicants should also arrange for a short letter of academic recommendation to be sent independently to the same email address (see above) verifying the applicant's academic status and country of residence.** Candidates need not specify which bursary they are applying for. They will automatically be considered for any bursary for which they are eligible. ****Please be sure to identify your e-mail as 'BURSARY APPLICATION'**.**

Remember: paper proposals, bursary applications and references should be submitted by 15 May 2026 to proposal.wsc@gmail.com.



Giant Redwood Tree in Rydal Hall grounds with Nab Scar in the background. Photo: Richard Grivil



The descent from Grizedale Tarn to Grasmere. Photo: Sharon Tai.

Nicholas Roe, Conference Director
Jake Phipps, Assistant Director and Treasurer
Inês Rosa, Postgraduate Representative
Kira Welland, Conference Administrator

On behalf of the Trustee Board of the Wordsworth Conference Foundation.



The Wordsworth Conference Foundation is a UK registered charity, number 1124319