



Rules 2019

We are delighted to announce The Spread the Word Life Writing Prize 2019 in association with Goldsmiths Writers Centre.

Competition Rules

1. Entries should be original works of life writing of no more than **5,000** words (does not include the title). The word count will be checked at longlisting stage and entries longer than 5,000 words will be disqualified. There is no minimum word count.
2. For the purposes of the Prize, Life Writing is defined as 'intended to be true', i.e. not fiction, and is based on a significant portion from the author's own personal experience. Traditional biographies where the piece is only about the experience of someone else are excluded. Pieces where a writer weaves a significant amount of their own experience in with someone else's life, or a concept, are welcome.
3. **Writers only submit one entry each.** Multiple entries by the same author will result in only the first entry being considered for the Prize and any additional entries disqualified.
4. Writers who have previously won or been highly commended in the Life Writing Prize are excluded from entering.
5. Entries must be the original, previously unpublished (including online, broadcast and self-published) work of the entrant. This includes pieces of writing that have already secured a publishing deal but have not yet been published.
6. Graphic novel style entries, where illustrations, drawings or photographs accompany text, are welcome.
7. Entries can be self-contained pieces of life writing, or the **first 5,000 words** of a longer piece of work.
6. The Life Writing Prize 2019 is open to writers aged over 18 and resident in the UK who are emerging writers, and we define emerging writers for the purposes of the Life Writing Prize as identifying with the following bullet points:
 - Not agented

- Does not have a publishing contract for a full-length work at the time of entering (please let Spread the Word know if you sign a publishing deal for a full-length work after you have entered the Prize, as this would render you ineligible).
 - Has not previously published in print a full-length work. We define a full-length work:
 - A complete work of fiction or non-fiction over 30,000 words
 - Ten or more short stories either in a collection or published individually
 - A professionally produced theatre script or screenplay, or radio play
 - Twenty or more poems either in a collection or published individually
 - For the purposes of the Prize, self-published authors of any of the definitions above are welcome to enter (as long as the piece you are entering is totally unpublished, including self-published). For more elaboration, please see the FAQs.
7. Entries must be the individual and original work of a sole author.
 8. Entries must be in English.
 9. Due to the volume of entries the Prize receives, Spread the Word is unfortunately unable to provide feedback for any entries.
 10. All entries will be judged anonymously. To that effect, please ensure that your entry does not contain your name on any of the pages. Any entries with names or identifying information on will be disqualified.
 11. If any of the judging panel recognise an entry, they can participate in a discussion about the piece but will recuse themselves from casting a vote.
 12. Entries can be submitted from Monday 5 November 2018 at midday. The closing date for entries is 11.59pm on Friday 1 February 2019.
 13. Entries that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a piece is to be published elsewhere or has won another prize so we can disqualify it from the Life Writing Prize.
 14. The Prizes on offer will see one entry named the winner, which in the judges' opinion, is the best piece of life writing. The winner will receive £1,500, publication on Spread the Word's website, an Arvon course (subject to availability), two years' membership to the Royal Society of Literature, a development meeting with an editor and an agent. Two highly commended entries will receive £500 and two mentoring sessions, a development meeting with an editor and an agent, and be published on the Spread the Word website. Three writers will be shortlisted, and six will be longlisted. All shortlisted and longlisted writers will be offered the opportunity to publish their work on the Spread the Word website and read a brief extract from their work at the Life Writing Prize ceremony in London at Goldsmiths University on Thursday 16 May 2019. Aside from cash, all other prizes are subject to availability.
 15. Twelve longlisted writers will be contacted in the week beginning Monday 11

March 2019 to confirm that their entry is still eligible. The titles of their stories and their names will be announced in the week beginning Monday 1 April 2019 on the Spread the Word website and associated social media channels. If you are a longlisted writer you agree to not announce the news before the results are published on Spread the Word's website.

16. Longlisted writers will be informed of the judges' final decision via email in the week beginning Monday 15 April 2019. The results are to remain confidential until the public announcement of the winners at an event on Thursday 16 May 2019.
17. The winner and highly commended writers will agree to any reasonable request by Spread the Word to fulfill press and marketing obligations relating to the competition and their own entry, including attending and reading at events connected with the Prize.
18. Copyright will remain with the author.
19. Spread the Word will publish the winning entry and the two highly commended entries on its website, and offer the shortlisted and longlisted writers the opportunity to be published on its website.
20. Entries should be typed in black, double spaced (unless a more stylized form including drawings and or photographs is necessary for the piece) and submitted online via Submittable, or in the post with an entry form to the Life Writing Prize, Spread the Word, The Albany, Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG.
21. Unfortunately, we cannot return entries submitted by post but we will acknowledge receipt of entry.
22. Employees or Trustees of Spread the Word or their close family members, Joanna Munro or any members of her family, judges or their close family members are not permitted to enter.
23. These terms and conditions are the Competition Rules. Submission of an entry will be taken to mean acceptance of these terms and conditions. Entries that fail to comply with these rules may be disqualified.
24. There may be extenuating circumstances that render the dates and timelines in this document flexible. Spread the Word reserve the right to alter these dates should it be necessary for any reason.