

Spread the Word is delighted to announce The London Short Story Prize 2017. You'll have up to 5000 words to move, excite, enthrall and inspire our judges on a theme and subject matter of your choice.

Competition Rules

1. Entries should be original works of complete short fiction prose of no more than **5000** words (does not include the title). No extracts please. (The word count will be checked at shortlisting stage. There is no minimum word count.) Stories are welcome on any theme.
2. Entries must be the original, previously unpublished (including online, broadcast and self-published) work of the entrant.
3. The London Short Story Prize 2017 is open to all published and unpublished writers resident in London, aged over 18. Entries must be the individual and original work of a sole author. To confirm whether your residency is in London, please check Doogal: https://www.doogal.co.uk/london_postcodes.php
4. Entries must be in English.
5. All entries will be judged anonymously. To that effect, please ensure that your story does not contain your name on any of the pages. Any stories with names or identifying information on will be disqualified.
6. Stories can be submitted from Monday 19 June 2017 at midday. The closing date for entries is midnight on Monday 9 October 2017 at midday. Any entries received after this time will be rejected.
7. Stories that are simultaneously submitted elsewhere are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a story is to be published elsewhere or has won another prize.
8. Writers can submit as many stories as they wish. Multiple stories by the same author entered online must be entered separately, with a fee of £6 for each story submitted. Multiple stories entered via post must contain a cheque for the correct number of entries multiplied by five (eg if you are submitting three stories then a cheque of £18 must be included) addressed to *Spread the Word*.
9. Spread the Word is not able to provide feedback for all entries.
10. Twelve longlisted writers will be contacted the week beginning Monday 6 November and the titles of their stories only (ie no writers' names) will be

announced the week beginning Monday 13 November on the Spread the Word website and associated social media channels. If you are a longlisted writer you agree to not disclosing the name of your story until the full results are announced on Wednesday 6 December, and not announcing the news before the results are published on Spread the Word's website.

11. Longlisted writers will be informed of the judges' final decision via email in the week beginning 27 November. The results are to remain confidential until the public announcement of the winner, two highly commended and shortlisted stories on the Spread the Word website on Wednesday 6 December.
12. The winner and highly commended writers will agree to any reasonable request by Spread the Word to fulfill marketing obligations relating to the competition and their own entry, including attending and reading at events connected with the Prize.
13. Copyright will remain with the author.
14. The prize of £1000 will be awarded to the entry that, in the judges' opinion is the best piece of short fiction. Two highly commended stories, along with the winning story, will receive a paragraph of feedback from each judge. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
15. Spread the Word will publish the winning, highly commended and shortlisted stories in a paperback anthology with Kingston University Press. The winning story will be published in print and online in Open Pen Magazine.
16. Entries should be typed in black, double-spaced and submitted online via Spread the Word's Submittable site with an entry fee of £6 or via post with a cheque for £6 per entry addressed to Spread the Word and posted to London Short Story Prize 2017, Spread the Word, The Albany, Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG.
17. There are 50 free entry spaces available for 50 London based writers on a low income by application until July 29.
18. Unfortunately, we cannot return stories submitted by post.
19. Employees or Trustees of Spread the Word and previous London Short Story Prize winners are not permitted to enter.
20. 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.