

## The Literary Consultancy's Free Reads Scheme 2017-2018 FAQs

### **What is the scheme?**

The Literary Consultancy's Free Reads scheme offers low-income, talented writers bursaried (non-fee paying) access to TLC's manuscript services. Through this scheme, selected writers will receive a free professional manuscript appraisal of their work to get it in the best possible shape for performance and/or publication.

### **Am I eligible to enter?**

You are eligible to enter (via Spread the Word) if you live in London and are on a low-income, meeting one of the following criteria:

- You are in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance, disability benefit, income support or working tax credit
- You earn less than the London Living Wage of £9.45 per hour
- You are a full-time student
- You are aged 60 or over

If you are a low-income writer but do not meet the criteria then please get in touch as we are able to evaluate applicants' eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

We are particularly interested in applications from writers under-represented in publishing (women writers, disabled writers, BAME writers and members of the LGBTQA community).

### **I don't live in London – can I still enter?**

TLC's Free Reads is a national scheme – so yes you can! However, Spread the Word is TLC's geographical partner for London and is only able to take entries from writers living in London. On TLC's website you will be able to find information about which organisation covers your region. Please note that each organisation has their own deadlines and so you will need to refer to their individual websites.

### **Is the scheme only for fiction writers?**

No. The scheme is open to writing across fiction, creative non-fiction, short stories, poetry, scripts and screenplays.

### **When can I apply?**

We open for entries at 10am on Monday 3 July and the deadline to apply is 5pm on Monday 4 December 2017.

### **My work isn't complete – can I still enter?**

Yes. Writers may either be awarded a partial manuscript assessment or a full manuscript assessment so we are able to accept unfinished work. However, you must be able to produce a clear synopsis of how the story develops. If you do not yet know the ending, that is absolutely fine.

### **What do I need to submit?**

You need to submit four documents to enter the scheme:

- A completed TLC Free Reads Scheme form

- The first 1,000 words of your writing or up to 20 pages if your writing is poetry or script-writing
- A complete synopsis of the written work submitted. The synopsis must clearly show your story's outline and should not exceed 1,000 words.
- Documentation that you meet the criteria

### **I think I'm ready to submit – have I got everything?**

Great news! Before submitting please check that you:

- Meet the criteria as listed above
- Have read through the FAQs listed in this document
- Have all the documents ready to enter the scheme
- Submit your entry before the deadline – 5pm on 4 December 2017

### **How do I submit my entry?**

You can either enter online via Submittable or send your entry via post. The online link is: <https://spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit/88890/spread-the-word-the-literary-consultancy-free-reads-2017-2018>

The postal address to send your submission to is:

Spread the Word (Free Reads)  
The Albany, Douglas Way  
LONDON, SE8 4AG

All postal entries will receive an e-mail receipt.

### **What happens after I've submitted my entry?**

All writers will be notified of the outcome on the week commencing 15 January 2018.

Short-listed writers will be asked to submit a full or partial manuscript, depending on what the length of read they have been offered. Specific guidelines on These will be processed by Spread the Word who will pass them onto TLC, who will match your manuscript to a suitable reader from its list of 80+ professional editors. They will provide a written critique of your work within 4-6 weeks of the application being processed.

This year we will be offering a feedback session with Spread the Word's Writer Development Manager Eva Lewin for writers to talk about the feedback they have received and how this can help them with their creative progress.

### **How can I withdraw an entry?**

You are able to withdraw online entries via Submittable yourself. If you would like to withdraw a postal entry then please contact Aliya on the e-mail address given at the bottom of this page.

### **I didn't get offered a Free Read. Can I ask for feedback?**

Unfortunately not. We receive a very high number of entries for this scheme which means that it isn't possible to provide feedback on each entry.

### **My question isn't listed here – what do I do?**

For any questions not listed here or any queries please email Aliya at [aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk)