



London Writers Awards 2018: Eligibility Criteria:

1. We accept writing in the following categories for the Awards:
 - a. Literary fiction (including short stories);
 - b. Commercial fiction (includes: romance, crime, science fiction, thriller, fantasy, historical fiction);
 - c. Narrative non-fiction (includes: life writing; biography, memoir, nature writing and non-fiction with a strong literary intent);
 - d. YA/children's (includes: middle grade and YA fiction, excludes picture books);
 - e. Poetry.

2. Writing samples can be made from current work that is either a non-fiction narrative, novel, part of a short story collection, a novella or part of a poetry collection. Applications to develop individual short stories or poems will not be accepted.

3. Applications are open to writers aged 18+ who live full-time in London. Check if your home postcode is in London here:
https://www.doogal.co.uk/london_postcodes.php

4. The Awards are for writers from the following under-represented communities in publishing:
 - a. Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME);
 - b. Working class or working class background;
 - c. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ)
 - d. Disabled.

5. If you are currently or are about to be enrolled in a graduate or postgraduate creative writing programme (BA, MA or Phd) or are part of a longer-term development programme for writers you are not eligible to apply.

6. Applicants must be un-agented and unpublished. We define this as meaning:
 - a. You do not currently have a literary agent representing you;
 - b. You do not have an existing book contract with a publisher;
 - c. You have not previously published a full-length work (i.e. a work of fiction or non-fiction over 30,000 words, or ten or more short



stories published either in a collection or individually, or twenty or more poems either in a collection or published individually);

- d. Previously self-published writers can apply with a currently unpublished work.
7. Applications must be in English.
8. All work submitted must be the individual and original work of the applicant.
9. Applications received after 5pm on Friday 22 June 2018 will not be accepted.
10. Applications will only be accepted online through our Submittable page: <https://spreadtheword.submittable.com/submit>
11. Applicants for literary and commercial fiction, YA/children's and narrative non-fiction will need to submit a sample of current writing up to a maximum of 3,000 words (i.e. from your novel or book project). Please ensure your prose extract is double-spaced, 12 point font and paginated.
12. Applicants for poetry will need to submit up to 5 poems (with a maximum total count of 100 lines). Poems do not need to be double-spaced and in 12 point font.
13. Entries will be judged anonymously. To that effect, please do not include your name on any uploaded documents. This includes your writing sample/poems. Any writing samples with names or identifying information on them will render the application disqualified.
14. Only one application will be considered per writer.
15. If a writer applies for more than one genre category, only their first application will be accepted. All other applications will be disqualified.
16. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview on Tuesday 21 or Wednesday 22 August 2018 at the Spread the Word offices at The Albany, Douglas Way, London SE8 4AG. Please check that you'll be available on these dates before applying.



17. Successful applicants will be required to attend a launch event on Saturday 22 September 2018. Please check that you'll be available on this date before applying.

Please read the Awards' Terms and Conditions before applying (downloadable on the [Awards' webpage](#)).

Limited Bursaries and an Access Fund are available. Information about these is available on the [Award's webpage](#).

If you have a question, please download and read the [Awards' FAQs](#).

If your question is not answered through the FAQs, please contact Bobby: bobby@spreadtheword.org.uk

June 2018