



## Terms and Conditions 2020

**We are delighted to announce The Spread the Word Life Writing Prize 2020 in association with Goldsmiths Writers Centre.**

Please read these terms and conditions before submitting your work.

### **Competition Terms and Conditions**

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 Entries must be the original, previously unpublished work of the entrant. Pieces of writing that have already secured a publishing deal but have not yet been published are ineligible.
6. All work submitted for consideration must be the entrant's own original writing and should not have been published online, in a physical format or have been broadcast on or before 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Work found to published online, in a physical format or have been broadcast will be disqualified. This includes pieces that are self-published on a blog or in a self-published book.
7. A judging panel of practising writers and literary professionals will select a short-list of entrants and, from that list, select the winners. The judges' decisions are final, and no correspondence about their decisions will be entered into. Spread the Word reserves the right to change the panel of judges without notice.
8. Graphic novel style entries, where illustrations, drawings or photographs accompany text, are welcome.
9. Entries can be self-contained pieces of life writing, or the **first 5,000 words** of a longer piece of work.
10. The Life Writing Prize 2020 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 50,000 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.

11. Entries must be the individual and original work of a sole author.

12. Entries must be in English.

13. Due to the volume of entries the Prize receives, Spread the Word is unable to provide feedback for any entries. We hope you understand and are sorry to not be able to provide this.

14. 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.

15. If any of the reading and judging panels recognise an entry, they can participate in a discussion about the piece but will recuse themselves from casting a vote.

16. Entries can be submitted from Monday 4 November 2019 at midday. The closing date for entries is 11am on Monday 3 February 2020.

17. 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.

18. 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 and in the Prize booklet, a writing

mentor, an Arvon course (subject to availability), two years' membership to the Royal Society of Literature, an optional development meeting with an editor and an agent. Two highly commended writers will receive £500 and two mentoring sessions, an optional development meeting with an editor and/ or an agent, and be published on the Spread the Word website and in the Prize booklet. Three writers will be shortlisted, and six will be longlisted. Writing mentors will be allocated to the three writers by the Spread the Word team after conversations with the writers about their work and moving it forward. All shortlisted and longlisted writers will be offered the opportunity to publish their work on the Spread the Word website and Spread the Word Life Writing Prize booklet and read a brief extract from their work, or have their work read on their behalf, at the Life Writing Prize ceremony in London at Foyles, Charing Cross Road, Wednesday 10 June 2020 in the evening. Aside from cash, all other prizes are subject to availability. Writers coming from outside London will be offered travel money to attend the ceremony.

19. Twelve longlisted writers will be contacted via email in the week **beginning** Monday 30 March 2020 to confirm that their entry is still eligible. The titles of their pieces and their names will be announced in the week beginning Monday 6 April 2020 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 on the evening on June 10 2020.
20. Writers who make the penultimate reading round but don't make the longlist will be offered the opportunity of having a special mention on the Spread the Word website.
21. Longlisted writers will be informed of the judges' final decision via email in the week beginning 20 April 2020. The results are to remain confidential until the public announcement of the winners at an event on Wednesday 10 June 2020.
22. 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.

23. Copyright will remain with the author.

24. 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. Additionally, the winning entry and two highly commended entries will be published in a Prize booklet. The shortlisted and longlisted writers will be offered the opportunity to have their pieces published in the Prize booklet too. The booklet will be distributed at the Prize event, sent to agents and the publishing industry. Writers featured in the booklet will each be given five copies to keep and a fee of £50 (excluding the winner and highly commended writers who will receive five copies of the book but not the £50 fee).

25. Entries should be typed in **black and double spaced** (unless a more stylised 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.

26. Unfortunately, we cannot return entries submitted by post but we will acknowledge receipt of entry.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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.