



Spread the Word is delighted to announce The London Short Story Prize 2019 is open for entries. Please read the rules carefully before submitting your entry.

Competition Rules

1. Entries should be original works of complete short fiction prose of no more than **5,000** 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 Entries must be the original, previously unpublished (including online, broadcast and self-published) work of the entrant.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 The London Short Story Prize 2019 is open to all published and unpublished writers resident in London, aged over 18. Entries must be the 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 If your postcode is listed on this graph, including the outer borough areas, you can enter the Prize.
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 Friday 14 June 2019 at midday. The closing date for entries on Monday 7 October 2019 at 5pm. 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 so we can withdraw your story from the competition.
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 £10 for each story submitted. Multiple stories entered via post must contain a cheque for the number of entries multiplied by ten (e.g. if you are submitting three stories then a cheque of £30 must be included) addressed to *Spread the Word*. All postal entries must attach an entry form with their submission, available to download on Spread the Word's website, or you can call the office to be posted an entry form if you do not have easy access to a computer and printer.
9. Spread the Word is not able to provide feedback for all entries.

10. Twelve long-listed writers will be contacted in the week beginning Monday 4 November 2019 to confirm that their entry is still eligible. The longlist (without the names of the writers) will be announced in the week beginning Monday 11 November 2019 on the Spread the Word website and associated social media channels. If you are longlisted you agree to not identify yourself with your short story before the final results are published on Spread the Word's website in December 2019.

11. Longlisted writers will be informed of the judges' final decision via email in the week beginning Monday 25 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 in the week beginning Monday 2 December 2019.

12. The winner, highly commended, shortlisted and longlisted 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. The winner will receive £1,000 and their story will be published in *Open Pen London*. Two highly commended authors will receive £250 each.

14. Spread the Word will publish the winning, highly commended, shortlisted and longlisted stories in a paperback anthology with Kingston University Press. Copyright will remain with the author. For inclusion of their stories in the anthology we will pay the shortlisted and longlisted writers £75 each.

15. The judges' decision is final.

16. Entries should be typed in black, double-spaced and submitted online via Spread the Word's Submittable site with an entry fee of £10 or via post with a cheque for £10 per entry addressed to Spread the Word and posted to London Short Story Prize 2019, Spread the Word, The Albany, Douglas Way, London, SE8 4AG. All postal entries must attach an entry form with their submission. Postal entry forms can be downloaded here:

<https://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/the-london-short-story-prize-2019-is-open-for-entries/london-short-story-prize-2019-postal-entry-form/>

17. There are 50 free entries available for writers on a low-income who are not earning the London living wage, are in receipt of benefits and/or disability allowance, have no income or are on zero hours contracts. If you feel you are on a low income but your situation is not described above, please still apply and let us know what your circumstances are. We won't ask for documentation to prove your eligibility, but we may conduct spot checks later in the Prize.

To apply for this offer please e-mail aliya@spreadtheword.org.uk with your name, postcode and a short paragraph on why you are eligible for a free entry. If accepted you will be given a private Submittable link and will have until 5pm on 7 October (same as the general submissions guidelines) to submit your story into the competition.

There is no deadline to apply for a free entry but we recommend applying earlier as they will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Applications for free entry are open from midday on Friday 14 June.

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.