



Wellcome Collection/Spread the Word Non-fiction writing awards

Who we are and what we do

We are Spread the Word. We give support and advice to writers in London to get their work published.

We are working with Wellcome Collection on a non-fiction Awards Programme.

We want to

- √ Work with writers from groups we don't always get to hear about
- √ Work with writers on a non-fiction idea about health and being human.

Who we want to apply

We want to hear from writers who have a big idea or a great story they want to tell about health and being human.

This might be about

- Climate change and the environment
- Mental health
- Identity – who are you?

- Wellbeing and disease
- Making connections in science
- Medicine
- Life
- Art

These are just some of the ideas you might want to write about. We don't always get to hear these ideas and stories from different groups of people. So, we want to hear from writers who might have an idea but not had the chance to be published as a non-fiction book.

We are interested in writers who

- √ Are D/deaf, disabled, and/or neurodivergent
- √ Black, Asian, or Global Majority – this means anyone who defines as being of colour
- √ Are unpublished or have not published or self-published a non-fiction book(s)
- √ Do not have an agent.
- √ Are 18 years old or over
- √ Live in the UK full-time.

We have up to 6 places for 6 writers on a 5-month writing programme to help them work on their idea.

You **can** apply if you are a published writer but not if you have self-published or published a non-fiction book already.

You **cannot** apply if you are studying an academic creative writing course or have studied one in the last two years. We want to keep the spaces for writers who have not had much writing support in the past.

You **cannot** apply if you have an agent.

Information about the Awards programme

The Awards programme gives you

- £2000 bursary money
- Supportive time with a published author
- Supportive time with a non-fiction editor
- Time to spend in Wellcome Collection's library
- Time with the Wellcome Collection team.

The Awards programme also gives you

- A chance to be published
- Workshop time and support
- A meeting with an agent
- Extra money for travel and access – if you need it.

The Awards programme will run from February 2022 – June 2022.

We want you to use the bursary money for writing and research.

By the end of the programme, we want our 6 writers to have worked on their idea, so it is ready to be shared with agents and editors. We will have an event where you can network and do this.

If you live outside London there will be money for travel as some events will happen in London. We also have extra money for anyone who needs access support to take part in the programme.

If you have any questions, please send an email to Bobby Nayar who works for Spread the Word.

bobby@spreadtheword.org.uk

Non-fiction writing about health and being human

Non-fiction writing is any piece of work that includes facts and not fiction. For example, a political or clinical piece of writing is non-fiction. It might be an essay or a piece of news writing.

Health, illness, and medicine are part of all our lives. We want the writers we work with to write a piece of non-fiction that gives new meaning to what it means to be human.

Your piece of writing must be in English and be original work.

How to apply for the Awards

You can apply to take part in the Awards Programme using [Submittable](#). This is an online application so you will need to make your own Submittable account. There will be a form to fill out, but we also want you to send

A statement about your writing life and what you want to get from the programme – this should be 300 words

An outline idea of the book you want to write and how it links to health and being human – this should be 300 words

Anything you want to tell us about access needs – this should be 150 words.

Please send us an example of your writing. This can be something you want to write or something from another

project. It can be fiction or non-fiction – this needs to be 3000 words.

You can also send your ideas as a video or audio file. Please ask if you want to find out more about how to do this.

The applications for the programme will be open from **Monday 18th October 2021 at midday** until **Monday 22nd November 2021 at 5pm.**

How we judge the entries

We will read your writing and all the information you send to us. Someone will read your entry from Spread the Word and from Wellcome Collection. They won't know who they are reading as there will be no name on the application. This makes it fair and equal.

When we have a long list of writers, we will ask our judges to choose the 9 shortlisted writers.

The 3 judges are

- Dr Annabel Sowemimo
- Dr Camilla Pang
- Raymond Antrobus

The judges will decide on the final 9 writers we choose to have a 30-minute interview on ZOOM. We will then choose the final 6 people. If we choose you to go on the programme, you will have to prove that you live in the UK.

We are looking for writers who want to make a change in their writing careers to work on a non-fiction book. We are looking for new and interesting ideas that show you are a writer that really wants this opportunity.

We want all 6 writers to go on and be published. The Wellcome Collection have the chance to make the first offer to each writer to publish their book.

Key dates for your diary

Time to make your application
18 October – 22 November 2021

Zoom event about the Awards
Wednesday 27 October, 7pm-8pm

We will contact the 9 writers we have chosen for interview
w/c 3 January 2022

Interviews for shortlisted candidates
Thursday 13 January 2022

We will contact the 6 writers we have chosen for the programme
Monday 17 January 2022

Induction and Industry Day at Wellcome Collection in London – this is in person so you may have to travel

Saturday 12 February 2022

Evening sharing event at Wellcome Collection in London – this in person so you may have to travel
Wednesday 29 June 2022

We will also have Zoom workshops in **March, April, and May 2022.**

Mentoring sessions will happen in person or online. There will be a chance to visit the Wellcome Collection Library and have extra sessions, either in person or online.

A full schedule of dates will be given to the successful writers in January 2022.