

Wellcome Collection x Spread the Word Writing Awards FAQ

Do I have to pay anything?

No. Participation in the Spread the Word x Wellcome Collection Writing Awards is free at the point of delivery. For the recipients who live in London, travel costs associated with participating will not be covered by Spread the Word. For the recipients who live outside of London there will be a travel fund to cover journeys to in person activity. Each recipient will receive a £2,000 bursary to cover costs in developing their ideas. There is also an access fund to support writers participating in the programme.

Will it be online or in person?

At this stage we are preparing for the programme to be run in person and online via Zoom. We are also monitoring the advice from the government and will make a decision towards the year on the balance of in person and online activity.

Will it take up much of my time?

This is a short but intensive programme with workshops, mentoring sessions, events and opportunities to develop your work on site at Wellcome Collection. We want to be ambitious with the programme, so that each candidate develops their ideas into a detailed proposal and sample extract by the end of June 2022. We estimate that you will need to commit 25 hours per month to make the most of the opportunities the programme will offer you.

I've done/am doing a creative writing course – can I apply?

If you are currently or are about to be enrolled in a graduate or postgraduate creative writing programme (BA, MA or PhD) or currently are or will be part of a longer-term development programme for writers that lasts for 3 months and above (such as the Faber Academy, Curtis Brown Creative, Jerwood Arvon Mentoring scheme, Penguin Random

House Write Now, London Libraries Emerging Writers scheme) you are not eligible to apply. If you have previously completed a BA, MA or PhD in creative writing in the last two years, you are also not eligible to apply. We have made this eligibility requirement to reach people who have not had sustained writer development.

I'm a published writer, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply as long as you have not self-published or published a non-fiction book for a general trade audience. If you have published an academic monograph, you can still apply.

I have an agent, can I apply?

No, we are looking for writers who do not yet have the support and guidance of an agent.

I have access needs, what should I do?

If you have access requirements that will need to be supported for you to participate in the programme, please complete the relevant section in the submission form when submitting your application.

Is this programme connected to the Wellcome Collection publishing imprint? Will they publish my book?

Staff from Wellcome Collection's publishing imprint will be involved in the judging and delivery of the programme. The Publishing team are actively looking for under-represented writers to take on and publish.

Participation in the scheme shall not be interpreted as a commitment to publish your work, and you will not be obliged to accept any publishing offer made to you during or following the scheme. However, by accepting the terms of the scheme, applicants agree that they will extend to Wellcome Collection the first option of publishing their first work of non-fiction on fair and reasonable market terms to be agreed in good faith.

Does my proposal have to relate to items in Wellcome Collection?

No. There's no requirement for your proposal to centre on, or refer to, Wellcome Collection's archive or exhibition themes, or the wider research and priorities of Wellcome.

As long as your idea relates to health and being human, we want to hear about it.

If you take part in the programme, there will be support to start researching your idea within Wellcome Collection's library collection and with its wider research partners and network. Whatever your starting point, we hope this will be a valuable resource. But we recognise this might not be relevant to every writer's idea or approach.

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

Please also read the terms and conditions in this document. If you still have any questions, please email Bobby at bobby@spreadtheword.org.uk.