**Early Career Bursaries for London Writers: Eligibility Criteria**

Please read these Eligibility Criteria before submitting your application.

You can view the **BSL video** and read **.doc** versions of the Eligibility Criteria on the Early Career Bursaries for Writers website: [www.spreadtheword.org.uk/early-career-bursaries](http://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/early-career-bursaries)

1. Applications to the Early Career Bursaries for London Writers programme are open to writers who are on a low income, by which we mean people:
   1. whose income is through benefits (i.e.: Universal Credit, PIP etc.);
   2. or whose income is paid at or below the London Living Wage hourly rate: <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage>;
   3. and whose savings do not exceed the amount needed to pay for three months of living costs (rent, gas and electricity, food etc.).
2. The 2023 Bursaries accept applications from writers developing work in the following genres:
   1. Literary fiction (including short stories);
   2. Commercial fiction (includes: romance, crime, science fiction, thriller, fantasy, horror, historical fiction);
   3. Narrative non-fiction (includes: life writing; biography, memoir, nature writing and non-fiction with a strong literary intent).
3. Writers of YA and Childrens’ fiction and non-fiction and poets are not eligible to apply for the 2023 Early Career Bursaries for Writers.
4. 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>
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 on/ or about to be accepted onto a longer-term development programme for writers (for e.g.: Write Now, London Libraries Development programme) you are not eligible to apply.
6. If you are currently or about to receive funding to support you as a writer (for e.g.: Arts Council England’s Development Your Creative Practice or Project Grant) you are not eligible to apply.
7. Applicants must be unagented and unpublished. We define this as meaning:
8. You do not currently have a literary agent representing you;
9. You do not have an existing book contract with a publisher;
10. 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);
11. Previously self-published writers can apply.

7. If you are offered agent representation and/ or a publishing contract for a full length novel, non-fiction book or short story collection prior to the commencement of the programme (i.e. during the application and judging process), you are ineligible for a Bursary.

8. Judges, their close family members, employees or trustees of Spread the Word, or of the Donors are not eligible to apply.

The Early Career Bursaries for London Writers’ website is: [www.spreadtheword.org.uk/early-career-bursaries](http://www.spreadtheword.org.uk/early-career-bursaries)

The Early Career Bursaries particularly welcomes entries from writers from the following communities: Black, Asian, Global Majority, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ), Working class or from a working-class background, Deaf and disabled, Refugee and Care experienced.

If you are considering submitting an entry to the Early Career Bursaries please make sure you have read the **Terms and Conditions**, available on the website in BSL and .doc formats.

If you have any questions about entering the Early Career Bursaries for London Writers:

* Please take a look at the **Frequently Asked Questions** which are available on the website in BSL and .doc formats.
* Sign up for a **free online information session** taking place 7pm-8pm, Wednesday 5 October. The session will be BSL interpreted: [https://early-career-bursaries-for-writers-information-evening.eventbrite.co.uk](https://early-career-bursaries-for-writers-information-evening.eventbrite.co.uk/)
* Contact Emily Ajgan at Spread the Word by email: [emily@spreadtheword.org.uk](mailto:emily@spreadtheword.org.uk)

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