

2026 Writers' Award Entry Form

- Please return your **entry and form as separate attachments** to enter@creativefuture.org.uk, or by post to: Creative Future Writers' Award, Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XG.
- Please complete **all fields** for your entry to be accepted.

Name:	
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Address:	
Town:	
Postcode:	
Year of Birth:	
I identify as:	<input type="checkbox"/> Agender <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Ethnic Origin:	<input type="checkbox"/> Arab <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Asian British <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian background [please describe]: <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African/Caribbean/Black British <input type="checkbox"/> Other Black background [please describe]: <input type="checkbox"/> Gypsy or Irish Traveler <input type="checkbox"/> White British <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish <input type="checkbox"/> Other white background [please describe]: <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed/Multiple Ethnicity [please describe]: <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic background [please describe]:

<p>The Award is open to writers who are under-represented. Please select all that apply to you:</p>	<p>Black/ Asian/ mixed heritage or other global majority background</p> <p>Gypsy or Irish Traveler</p> <p>Carer</p> <p>Learning disability</p> <p>LGBTQIA+</p> <p>Mental health challenges</p> <p>Neurodivergent</p> <p>Physical disability/long-term limiting illness/sensory impairment</p> <p>Substance misuse issue</p> <p>Survivor</p> <p>Working class background</p>
<p>Title of Entry:</p>	
<p>Category: (You can only make one entry, in one category)</p>	<p>Creative Non-Fiction</p> <p>Fiction</p> <p>Poetry</p>

<p>Would you like to subscribe the Creative Future newsletter?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Have you ever submitted work to a literary competition besides ours before?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Does submitting work to the Writers' Award help you value yourself as a writer?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>

- We cannot accept submissions without a **completed entry form**.
- Questions? Get in touch on enter@creativefuture.org.uk or **01273 234780** (Tuesdays only).
- We are a small part-time team and may not respond right away.

- There is no **entry fee**. Help keep the Award free by **donating** at www.creativefuture.org.uk/donate or enclose a **cheque** payable to Creative Future.

Eligibility

If you are unsure about your eligibility, please enter and we will contact you if we have any questions if your work is shortlisted. We encourage anyone who is interested to enter the competition.

The Writers' Award is **only** open to those who are:

- **Over 18** years old
- **Currently living in the UK** (regardless of immigration status), due to the nature of the prizes and opportunities on offer.
- From **underrepresented backgrounds** (as defined on the entry form).
 - *Please choose **any and all** categories which apply to you when entering. We ask that you **self-identify** under the above categories and **do not** ask that you **prove your eligibility**.*
 - *We champion people who are underrepresented in a range of ways, on the assumption that people will use their judgement about the barriers and issues they have faced. We have **never turned anyone away** as ‘not underrepresented enough.’*
- Have **not** yet secured a **literary agent** or **published** a book, or are **under contract** for publication this year, in creative non-fiction, fiction/YA or poetry.
 - This does **not** include stories/poems/short pieces published in **magazines, journals, anthologies** or **online**.
 - Your entry to the competition **must not** have been published previously in a magazine, anthology, or online where there is an **external selection process** (e.g. except on your own blog, website, or social media).
 - This does **not** include **self-published** books.
 - It **does** include **poetry pamphlets**.
 - It **does** count even if you intend to enter in a different genre than you've been published in (poetry, fiction or creative non-fiction).
 - It does **not** include academic, technical, cookbooks or children's books or similar.

Entries:

- This year's theme is 'Material.' It is a creative prompt, not a requirement. Send us your best work!
- Please do **not** put your **name** on your work. Judging is anonymous.
- The best way to see what we're looking for is by [purchasing a previous anthology here](#).

Word Limits:

- You can submit **one** piece of writing, up to the word limits (**not including** the title, section/stanza breaks, or epigraphs).
 - Poetry: **50 lines**.
 - Fiction: **2,000 words**.
 - Creative Non-Fiction: **2,000 words**.
- There is **no minimum word** or line count.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- I'm not sure if my work fits the **theme**.
 - The theme is a creative prompt, **not** a requirement. We are looking for quality writing first and foremost.
- Can I enter under a **pen name**?
 - You may use a pen name, including for the Award announcement, publication and associated publicity.
- Can I enter an **excerpt** of a **longer** work?
 - You are welcome to submit an excerpt of a longer work if it works as a stand-alone piece.
- What do you mean by **creative non-fiction**?
 - We are looking for memoir, lyric essays, narrative/immersive journalism, nature, food, travel and place writing. Please [read our blog post here](#).
- Can I include words in **another language**?
 - It's fine to include footnotes or similar to translate anything that isn't clear in context if necessary. These are not considered part of the word count.
- Are there any restrictions on **adult content** or **genres**?
 - There are no restrictions on explicit content. We do not accept scripts, screenplays or children's writing. Our judges do not tend to select straight genre work (sci-fi, fantasy, crime, horror or similar).
- Can I include **photos, illustrations or complex typography**?
 - The anthology is printed in standard black-and-white text and no photos or illustrations can be included. We would make every effort otherwise, e.g. for a shape poem or accents/diacritics for non-English words.
- Why are poets who've **published pamphlets** ineligible?
 - We realise this is disappointing, but the Award is aimed at new and unpublished writers. We sometimes have opportunities for early-career poets so do [subscribe to our newsletter](#).
- I have a literary **agent**, am I eligible?
 - If you currently have formal literary agent representation, you are not eligible. This does not include if you formerly had an agent but not at present, or have agents interested in your work but you have not contracted with.
- Can I get **feedback** on my entry?
 - We unfortunately do not have the capacity to give any feedback on submissions.

- I need to **make changes** to my entry.
 - Submissions cannot be altered after entry. You can withdraw your entry and make a new one if needed.
- My entry was accepted for **publication**/won a **prize** elsewhere.
 - Please notify us immediately to withdraw your submission.
- Can I use **AI** (such as ChatGPT)?
 - Your work must not have been created using AI software, unless this is done in a transformative or artistic way and is clearly indicated. Please abide by the [Authors Guild guide to best practice](#). Work discovered to have been generated using AI will be disqualified.
- Can I send a **hand-written** entry by post?
 - We prefer typed entries, but accept handwritten entries—keep copies as entries will not be returned.
- Do you have any writing **workshops** on offer?
 - We offer workshops across the year depending on resources. You can see what we currently offer [here](#).
- Can you help me get an **agent**, **publish** my book or with other **1:1 writing support** and advice?
- We don't have capacity to offer 1:1 support or other services. We do not maintain a list of literary agents. You might want to look at our [Resources](#) and [Pathway Guides](#).