



**The Royal Society
of Literature**

The Royal Society of Literature
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The Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize 2019

For first-time writers aged 50 and over

**Judges for the 2019 Awards will be Gillian Slovo
(Chair), Sanjeev Bhaskar, Archie Bland and
Anne Chisholm**

Rules and Entry Form
Closing date: 12 December 2018

1. The Prize

a) A prize of £10,000 will be awarded to the author of the work that the judges consider to be the best eligible entry. This may be a work of fiction or non-fiction, including writing for children and young adults. The prize may not be divided or withheld.
b) The winner will also be offered a two-week writing retreat in France or Ireland.

2. Eligible Books

a) The Prize is open to writers **aged 50 or over at the time of publication**, for their first published work of fiction or non-fiction. Proof of date of birth will be requested at the point of judging.
b) The writer must be a citizen of, or resident in, the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. The book must be a unified work. Collections of short stories, novellas, poetry and drama are not eligible.
c) Books originally written in another language, and translated into English, are not eligible.

3. Entry of Books

a) Books may be entered only by trade publishers or agents based in the UK or RoI.
b) Each publisher, imprint of a publisher or agent may enter two books only.
c) Each publisher or agent may also submit a list of up to three further fiction or non-fiction titles for the judges to call in. These should be accompanied by a justification of not more than 250 words for each submission. **Please do not submit copies of the call-in titles unless requested.** While the judges are not obliged to call in any of these titles, they are also at liberty to call in titles that have not been submitted.

c) The judges will be responsible for compiling a shortlist of outstanding books. This will be announced in May 2019. The winner will be announced shortly thereafter.
d) The prize is administered in all respects by the Royal Society of Literature.

d) All entries must be published for the first time in the UK or RoI within the calendar year 2018. Previous publication of a book outside the UK does not disqualify it.
e) Self-published books are not eligible.
f) A book submitted on behalf of an author who was deceased at the date of publication will not be eligible for consideration.

d) **Seven** copies of each book to be entered, and completed entry forms, must be submitted by **12 December 2018**. Entries should be sent to:
Martha Stenhouse
RSL Christopher Bland Prize
The Royal Society of Literature
Somerset House, Strand
London WC2R 1LA
Books must not be sent direct to the judges.
e) No book entered by publishers or called in by the judges will be returned to the publishers.

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Please return the form and submit books by 12 December 2018

Title:

Author:

Date of birth and age at date of publication:

Citizenship:

Current place of residence (town and country):

Imprint:

Publisher:

Contact at publisher
(name, number, email):

Editor (name,
number, email):

Agent (name,
number, email):

Publication date:

A list of up to three further titles for consideration by the judges is enclosed (please tick if relevant)