



# The Royal Society of Literature Christopher Bland Prize 2023

## Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

### 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 young adults. The prize may not be divided or withheld.
- b) The judges will be responsible for compiling a shortlist of outstanding books. This will be announced in summer 2023 and the winner will be announced shortly thereafter.
- c) The prize is administered in all respects by the Royal Society of Literature.

### 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 not have had published by a trade publisher, or self-published, a book of any kind prior to the publication of the work entered into the Prize. This includes collections of poetry or short fiction, or academic non-fiction.
- c) The writer must be a citizen of, or resident in, the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland.
- d) The book must be a unified work. Collections of short stories, novellas, poetry and drama are not eligible.
- e) Books originally written in another language, and translated into English, are not eligible.
- f) All entries must be published (in any format) for the first time in the UK or RoI within the calendar year 2022. Self-published books are not eligible.
- g) A book submitted on behalf of an author who was deceased at the date of publication will not be eligible for consideration.

### 3. Entry of Books

- a) Books may be entered only by trade publishers or agents based in the UK or RoI (regardless of the author's citizenship or residency). **Authors may not enter themselves.**
- 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 1,250 characters for each submission. **Please do not upload 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 eligible titles that have not been submitted.
- d) Only digital submissions will be accepted, in epub or mobi format. Please upload files when filling out the entry form [here](#). There should be no watermarks or crop marks, and we ask that the cover and copyright page are included. Only small presses who do not have digital versions may send copies of books to the office, which cannot be returned. The deadline for entries is **Friday 9 December**. Books must not be sent direct to the judges.

Please also complete an equal opportunities monitoring form for the author you are entering, the information on which will be treated in the strictest confidence and not linked to submissions. If entering on behalf of someone else, please check the responses for accuracy prior to submitting.