



RSL Christopher Bland Prize: Eligibility Criteria

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. The shortlist and winner will be announced in Summer 2026.
- c) The Prize is administered in all respects by the Royal Society of Literature.

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 in the application.
- b) The writer must not have had published by a trade publisher, or self-published, a book of any kind, or under any other name, prior to the publication of the work entered into the Prize. This includes collections of poetry or short fiction, and academic non-fiction.
- c) The writer must be a citizen of, or resident in, the UK 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 have been published for the first time in the UK or Republic of Ireland, in any format, within the 2026 calendar year (January to December 2029).
- g) Self-published books are not eligible.

- h) A book submitted on behalf of an author who was deceased at the date of publication will not be eligible for consideration.

Entry of Books

- a) Fill out all the details on the entry form. Submissions will only be accepted from trade publishers or literary agents based in the UK or Republic of Ireland, regardless of the author's citizenship or residency. Authors may not enter themselves.
- b) Each publisher, imprint of a publisher, or literary agent may enter a maximum of two books.
- 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.
- d) Call-in titles must meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined above and a justification of up to 250 words must be provided on the entry form for each title.
- e) Publishers should not send in or upload call-in titles unless requested. While the judges are not obliged to call in any of these titles, they are at liberty to call in titles that have not been submitted.
- f) Three copies of the main entry (not call-in titles) should be sent to:

RSL Christopher Bland Prize
Royal Society of Literature
Somerset House
London
WC2R 1LA

Books must not be sent directly to the judges and no books submitted can be returned.

- g) If a digital copy of the book is available, it should be uploaded as an EPUB file only when completing the entry form. PDFs cannot be accepted. Files should contain no watermarks or crop marks and should include the cover and copyright page.

Entry Guidelines

- a) The deadline for entries is Friday 06 November 2026 at 5pm.
- b) Applicants should ensure that they have read and understood all eligibility criteria before submitting an entry.
- c) The Royal Society of Literature cannot accept responsibility for incomplete or incorrect submissions.
- d) Submission of an entry implies acceptance of these conditions. Any entries that do not meet the requirements outlined above will not be taken forward. No correspondence will be

entered into regarding incorrect submissions.

- e) Complete all sections of the application form in full. Please only click submit when you have completed the form.
- f) Entries should be made via the online form; no email or postal applications will be considered without prior agreement and there is no need to submit any additional documents.

The RSL is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applicants from all backgrounds and experiences. To give us insights into who is applying, we would appreciate it if applicants could complete the Audience Monitoring section included at the end of the entry form on behalf of the author. The information provided in this section will be treated in the strictest confidence and not linked to applications.