



2024 black&write! Writing Fellowships Entry Guidelines

The black&write! Writing Fellowships are awarded through an unpublished manuscript competition, which is open to any Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander writer currently living in Australia.

Fellowship recipients receive \$15,000, editorial development through black&write! and a publication opportunity with Hachette Australia. Fellowship recipients will be expected to work cooperatively with the black&write! editors through to the completion of their development period.

How to enter

Please follow these steps to apply for a black&write! Writing Fellowship:

1. Read the **Entry Guidelines** in full.
2. Prepare your **Entry Documents**.
3. **For electronic submissions:** Complete the online entry form (details below) and upload entry documents through the State Library of Queensland website OR email completed entry form and entry documents to Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au.

For printed submissions: Post or deliver your completed entry form and other required documents to below address:

black&write! Writing Fellowships
Level 2, State Library of Queensland
PO Box 3488
South Brisbane QLD 4101

4. Submit entry before the competition closes at **11.59PM Monday 22 January 2024**.
Note: Postal entries need to be sent (not received) and postmarked before this time.
5. You will receive a confirmation email from black&write! once your application has been received and checked for eligibility.

Entry Guidelines

These will help you determine if your entry is eligible for the Fellowship competition

- Entries that do not meet the **entry guidelines** will not be eligible.
- Eligibility of an entry will be determined by State Library. Any determination of eligibility made by State Library will be final.

- There is no limit to the number of entries an entrant may submit. However, each individual entry must be submitted as a separate entry.
- There is **no** entry fee.

Entry Documents

- Every entry must include a completed **entry form**
 - Find entry forms here: <https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/get-involved/fellowships-awards-and-residencies/blackwrite/blackwrite-writing-fellowships>
- Every entry **must** include a copy of the entrant's **Confirmation of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Descent/Letter of Confirmation** with a common seal from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander incorporated community organisation.
- Every entry must include a copy of the unpublished **manuscript** you wish to work on during the Fellowship
- Entrants under 18 years of age must include a signed and dated **letter of consent** from their parent or guardian.
- Hardcopy entries may provide copies of these documents on a USB or as a printed copy. Keep in mind, we are unable to return any materials submitted with your entry.
- For illustrated manuscripts, copies of the illustrations must be provided. Please do not send original illustrations.

Entrant Eligibility

- Entrants must be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.
- Entrants must be currently residing in Australia.
- Entrants must be available and able to complete manuscript development process with **black&write!** throughout 2024.
- Entrants of all ages are welcome. However, entrants under 18 years of age must provide written consent to enter competition from their parent or guardian.
- Entrants are eligible regardless of whether they have previously published their work.
- In general, only single-authored entries will be accepted. Joint-authored works may be considered but entrants must contact **black&write!** to discuss prior to submitting the entry.
- Joint entries will be accepted for children's books with illustrations where there is both an author and illustrator. They will be considered joint entrants and one Fellowship prize will be split equally between the two.
 - Both entrants must meet eligibility requirements.

- Both writer and illustrator must **each** complete an entry form and provide confirmation of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Manuscript Eligibility

- Manuscripts **must not** have been published previously, including self-published.
 - Previous publication of individual poems, or short stories within the manuscript is acceptable.
- Manuscripts should be formatted according to 'How to Format your Manuscript' guidelines below
- Manuscripts currently submitted to other writing competitions, or under contract to a publisher or agent, or subject to contractual negotiations, are **not** eligible.
- Manuscript must be an original work of the entrant/s.
- Fiction manuscripts of any genre are eligible
- Non-fiction manuscripts are **not** eligible
- Fiction and short story collection manuscripts must be a minimum of **50,000** words.
- Young adult manuscripts must be a minimum of **40,000** words.
- Poetry manuscripts must be a minimum of **30** poems.
- Children's book manuscripts have no word count requirement.
- Your manuscript may be in English, Aboriginal English, Torres Strait Creole, an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, or a combination of these, including a bilingual text.
- State Library reserves the right to determine if an entry is eligible or not.

Entries must be received by 11.59PM Monday 22 January 2024.

How to format your manuscript

Please format your manuscript in the following way:

- formatted in a **plain** font, 12-point font size
- pages should be numbered
- lines should be double-spaced
- 2cm minimum margins on each side of page
- both digital and hardcopy entries should be typed, or word processed

- the entrant's name should appear only on the **first** page of the manuscript
- digital copies of the manuscript should be provided as a Microsoft Word document

Selection process

What happens after you submit your entry:

- The Fellowships will be awarded by State Library of Queensland on the advice of a judging panel with extensive knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writing.
- Entries will be judged against the following criteria;
 - Literary and creative merit
 - Originality
 - Contribution to Australian literature
 - Potential value of a Fellowship for the entrant's writing career
 - Development required to bring the manuscript to a publishable standard.
- Every eligible entrant will receive individual comments on their manuscripts. Due to the number of manuscripts received, the judges cannot provide a detailed manuscript appraisal.
- Judges may invite entries for consideration.
- No correspondence will be entered into once the decision has been announced.
- State Library reserves the right to:
 - not accept any ineligible, incomplete or late entries
 - not award a Fellowship.
 - determine if an entry is eligible or not.

Intellectual property

We recognise and respect intellectual property rights

Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual property (ICIP)

- Entrants who submit manuscripts and/or illustrations containing any ICIP must:
 - use their best endeavours to obtain informed consent for the use of ICIP from the relevant custodians
 - not damage, endanger or disrespect that ICIP in their use of it.
- For information about use of ICIP, read the '[Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property In The Arts](#)', published by Australia Council for the Arts.

Intellectual property

- Entering the competition does not, in any way, transfer or alter the entrant's ownership of any intellectual property vested in the manuscripts and/or illustrations submitted.
- Entrants must not, through the manuscripts and/or illustrations they submit, infringe, or impede upon any intellectual property rights of any third party.

Moral Rights

- State Library respects the moral rights of all entrants to the competition.
- Entering the competition does not grant State Library the right to reproduce, whether in whole or in part, any manuscripts and/or illustrations submitted by entrants (with the exception of internal reproduction for the sole purpose of facilitating the judging process).

Privacy Statement

State Library collects personal information through the competition for the sole purposes of promoting and administering the competition. Any information collected by State Library through the competition will not be disclosed to any third-party without express written consent of the relevant entrant/s.

Information and Enquiries

If you are unsure about your eligibility or have any questions, please contact black&write! on:

Email: Indigenous.writing@slq.qld.gov.au

Phone: (07) 3842 9985

