

Please read these eligibility and entry rules (collectively the “**Terms and Conditions**”) carefully before submitting your entry to be considered for the 2026 *Footnote x Counterpoints Writing Prize* (the “**Prize**”).

Footnote Press is an imprint of Bonnier Books UK Limited (“**we**” / “**us**” / “**our**”) who together with Counterpoints Arts are the “**Organisers**”.

By submitting an entry for the Prize you are accepting these Terms and Conditions.

For any queries not covered below, please email [prizesubmission@footnotepress.com](mailto:prizesubmission@footnotepress.com)

## Eligibility

1. Anyone from a refugee or migrant background who is a resident of the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland is eligible to submit an entry for the Prize, whether they have previously been published or not.
2. There is no age restriction on who can submit an entry for the Prize, but if you are aged under 18 then the person legally responsible for you must also provide their separate written consent to your entry.
3. We welcome both agented and unagented submissions for this year’s prize.
4. The submission and synopsis for your book must be for fiction, centred on themes of displacement, courage and/or resistance. We welcome eclectic and expansive interpretations of these themes. We are especially interested in work that sits at intersections, or across cultures, communities and borders, and which moves beyond the personal to touch upon some of the key social and political themes of our day.
5. The submission itself (or any abridged or extended version of it) must not have been published previously, whether by a publisher or by the writer themselves, or by anyone else anywhere in the world in any format, including on the internet.
6. The Organisers’ decision as to whether a submission is eligible shall be final.

## Submission Format

1. Submissions must be for a fiction book centred on themes of displacement, courage and/or belonging (for more detail refer to point 3 in the Eligibility section above) and consist of a sample of 8,000-10,000 words and a detailed synopsis of a minimum of 1,500 words, as well as a fully completed online submission form. You will be asked to provide an estimated word count for the complete book, as well as the date by which you would be able to deliver the completed manuscript. **You must be able to deliver a complete manuscript of approx. 60,000-100,000 words before 27th June 2027.**
2. As detailed on the form, when submitting please include your name, contact details, a brief biography in which you can share a little about your experience of forced displacement or migration, and any relevant information such as previously published short works or poetry, agent details (if relevant), social media accounts, prizes won or nominated for etc.

3. Additionally, we will require a 30-60 second video introduction to yourself and/or your work in a generally accessible digital file-type. No specialist equipment is required to film this; a mobile phone or webcam video is fine.
4. To enter, please complete the following form [Footnote Counterpoints Prize 2025 Submission Form](#) before 5pm on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. There is no fee to enter.
5. Your sample and synopsis must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents, preferably double-spaced and in Times New Roman typeface of 12-point font.

## **Rules of entry and conditions of the prize**

1. The winner will be offered:
  - a. A total of £15,000, which is made up of:
    - i. A cash prize of £7,500, which will be paid out in two equal instalments: the first instalment upon the winner's acceptance of the Prize and signing a publication contract with us; and the second instalment on our acceptance of the final, completed manuscript of the book; and
    - ii. A publishing contract with us, with a £7,500 advance against royalties from future sales of the book) which will be payable on our first print publication of the book; and
  - b. Editorial feedback from the Footnote Press editorial team.
2. Shortlisted writers will also be invited to a live event on May 31st 2026 at the Southbank Centre, London to read from and discuss their entry for the Prize. All reasonable expenses related to attending this event will be covered where agreed in advance by the Organisers. By submitting an entry for the Prize, you are committing to participate in this event if invited to do so. The Organisers' decision as to the list of confirmed invitees is final.
3. **Submissions must be submitted before 5pm GMT on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2026.**
4. Proposals must be for books written originally in the English language.
5. Proposals must be submitted directly by the person who has written them. That person must be a living person at the date the Prize is awarded and at the date the winning book is published unless the Organisers decide otherwise in their sole discretion.
6. Each entrant may only submit one entry for the Prize.
7. Entries for books written by more than one person will not be accepted.
8. Sample material (and any expansions or abridgements of them) must not have been previously published/self-published or otherwise made publicly available by anyone in any manner, format or country anywhere in the world including on the internet.
9. If your submitted sample is part of a larger work that is currently being considered by other publishers, that work must be withdrawn from those publishers before being entered into the Prize. Any submitted work which at any time during the running of the Prize is found to be in the process of being considered for publication by another publisher or which is subject to an offer by, or is under contract to, another publisher shall be immediately disqualified. The

decision of the Organisers in this matter is final and no correspondence shall be entered into in this regard.

10. The book being proposed must be the entrant's own original creation, must not be copied from anywhere else and must not infringe any right, including copyright, of any person or entity nor breach any duty of confidentiality or any other right of any person, including libel, and must not breach the law in any way including being considered an obscene publication.
11. It is a strict condition of winning the Prize that the proposed winner enters into a contract with us on our customary author agreement terms to grant us exclusive print volume, audio, eBook, translation and serial rights throughout the world in all languages together with all other rights detailed in the contract. **The Prize cannot be awarded to anyone who does not enter into a contract with us.**
12. We will have the exclusive right to publish the winning entry once it has been completed, but we shall be under no obligation to do so.
13. It is a strict condition of entry to the Prize that all entrants grant us the right of first refusal to publish their submission for the Prize, our right of first refusal continues until the winner of the Prize is announced or the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 (whichever is later), after which time, if we have not offered to publish your entry, entrants not selected as the winner are free to submit their entry to other publishers. If we have made an offer to publish your work but have not concluded an agreement within 8 weeks of our offer, then you are free to submit your entry elsewhere. It is a strict condition of entry to the Prize that all entrants grant us the right of first refusal to publish their submission for the Prize, our right of first refusal continues until either:
  - a. 15th May 2026, if you have not received a response that your entry has been shortlisted by this date, or
  - b. if you are shortlisted, until either the winner of the Prize is announced, or the 1st August 2026 (whichever is earlier), or
  - c. if you are shortlisted and we have made an offer to publish your work at any point, until 8 weeks following our initial offer provided we have not been able to mutually agree terms for publication,after which time in each case, entrants are free to submit their entry elsewhere.
14. If after entering into a contract with us the winner of the Prize wishes to withdraw from the contract, they will be required to repay all sums received by them before their withdrawal and no further sums will be paid to them and in such case they will be considered to have rejected the Prize and all elements of it.
15. It is a strict condition of entry to the Prize that the proposed winner accepts that they will be contractually obliged to deliver to us no later than 27th June 2027 a full-length book of 70,000-100,000 words which is in line with the submission requirements detailed in these Terms and Conditions and which is suitable to be published as determined by us on the terms set out in the publishing contract. As part of the contract the proposed winner must be:
  - a. prepared to undertake all necessary editorial work required to ensure a completed book is ready for publication by us; and,
  - b. be prepared to undertake publicity and promotional responsibilities as specified in the contract for the winning book – reasonable expenses for such publicity and promotion will be paid for us where agreed in advance.

16. The winner of the Prize will be notified by June 12th 2026. By submitting an entry for the Prize, all entrants agree that, except where prohibited by law, the Organisers, the Southbank Centre, and any other authorised partners or stakeholders (including sponsors) involved in the running of the Prize shall have the right to use the winning entrant's name, likeness, biographical information, and any proposed title of the winning book for advertising, promotion and publicity purposes without needing further permission from the entrant and without needing to make any further payment to the entrant or anyone else.
17. The shortlisted entrants for the Prize may also be offered the opportunity at our sole discretion to discuss their proposed book with one of our editors.
18. If entrants have not received a response from the Organisers by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026, unfortunately they have not been shortlisted for the Prize. The Organisers will keep all information securely until this date after which all personal information of entrants will be deleted and destroyed from all relevant systems within 90 days. All entrants give the right to the Organisers to hold, store and process the personal information they have provided purely for the purposes of administering the Prize. All entrants authorise the Organisers to contact them in respect of the Prize and its administration.
19. Entrants will always retain ownership of the copyright and moral rights in their submission and proposal, but by submitting an entry to the Prize, each shortlisted entrant allows the Organisers at no extra cost to publicly use their submission and/or synopsis or any parts of them in any way which is related to the Prize including for publicity or other materials without the need for the Organisers to obtain any further permission, consent or approval from the entrant or anyone else.
20. Any personal information given will be used solely for reviewing entrants' submissions and correspondence directly related to the Prize, and will not be passed on to any party not involved in the running or administration of the Prize without the entrant's consent.
21. By entering a submission for the Prize, all entrants agree that the Prize is non-transferable and no alternatives are available.
22. The Organisers reserve the right to actively invite anyone they choose to submit an entry for the Prize.
23. The Organisers reserve the right to not award the Prize or to withdraw the Prize at any time for any reason without any liability.
24. Entries that are incomplete, or for which their electronic files are corrupt or entries which are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
25. The decision of the judges of the Prize is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the judging or submission process.
26. Only submissions which meet all Terms and Conditions will be considered.
27. By submitting an entry to the Prize, each entrant agrees to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.

28. Unless required by law, the Organisers will not be responsible for any loss, costs, expenses or any other liability of any nature which may be suffered by entrants in connection with the Prize or any change to the Terms and Conditions or the holding or cancelling of any announcements related to the Prize. The Organisers reserve the right to cancel the Prize or to alter the Terms and Conditions at any time and for any reason.
29. The Prize, the administration of it, the assessment criteria, these Terms and Conditions and all other matters of whatever nature relating to the Prize and any disputes relating to the same shall be governed by English law and all entrants agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.