



# The 2021 Booker Prize for Fiction

# Rules & Entry Form

---

The submission rules have changed for the 2021 Booker Prize

Open for entries from Tuesday 15 December 2020

Entries should be sent as soon as they are available.

#### Automatic entries

Physical copies and PDFs for all automatic entries (books by authors who have previously been shortlisted) should be submitted to Four Culture during December 2020. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

#### Books published between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted to Four Culture by Friday 29 January 2021.

#### Books published between 1 April and 30 September 2021

All entry forms must be submitted to Four Culture by Friday 2 April 2021, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Friday 11 June 2021.

#### Call-ins

All nomination forms, justification letters and first chapters must be submitted to Four Culture by Friday 5 March 2021. If no text is available at the time of call-in, the first chapter should be sent as soon as it is available.

Direct any submission queries to: [submissions@thebookerprizes.com](mailto:submissions@thebookerprizes.com)

Entry forms are now online here: [thebookerprizes.com/submissions](https://thebookerprizes.com/submissions)

---

[www.thebookerprizes.com](https://www.thebookerprizes.com)

#FinestFiction #2021BookerPrize

# About the prize

## The Booker Prize for Fiction

The Booker Prize is awarded annually by the Booker Prize Foundation to the author of the best (in the opinion of the judges) eligible work of long form fiction.

Each year's panel of judges is chosen with the advice of the Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee, and is appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation. The prize is administered by the Foundation's Literary Director.

The judges are responsible for compiling a longlist of 12 or 13 books - 'The Booker Dozen' - and from this a shortlist of six books from which they then choose the winner. The judges are solely responsible for the decisions as to which books will be so recognised and must do so in accordance with these rules. In making their decisions they must comply with all guidelines and directions as to the operation of the rules given to them by the Foundation's Literary Director who does so on behalf of the Foundation.

The prize may not be divided or withheld.

Each shortlisted author receives £2,500 and a designer bound copy of their book.

The winning author receives a further £50,000.

## Publishers' entry quotas

Any reference to "work" or "works" throughout these rules means a work or (as the case may be) works of long-form fiction.

Works to be considered by the judges can only be submitted by the publishers identified in 1a. below. The number of works a publisher can submit will depend on that publisher's inclusion in longlists from 2016 to 2020, as follows:

- 1 submission - publishers with no longlisting
- 2 submissions - publishers with 1 or 2 longlisting(s)
- 3 submissions - publishers with 3 or 4 longlistings
- 4 submissions - publishers with 5 or more longlistings

Please see the last page for the 2016 to 2020 longlists.

All submissions, call-in nominations and judges' call-ins are made on a confidential basis as between publishers and the prize and the prize will not accept entries where the author or agent has required a publisher to make a submission - see rule 1 g.

# Rules

## 1 Eligibility

- a Any work of fiction (see 1e. below) in print or electronic format, written originally in English and published in the UK or Ireland by an imprint formally established in the UK or Ireland (see 1b. below) is eligible. The imprint must publish a list of at least two works of high quality long-form fiction by different authors each year. These two will not include a work by the publisher. If the publisher is a company, the two will not include a work by the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company.
- b In determining whether the work is published in the UK by an imprint formally established in the UK the publisher must comply with all of the following:
  - i the imprint sells its list in pounds sterling and where sold in print its books are distributed through national UK retail outlets, and
  - ii the imprint has its principal place of business in the UK and is subject to UK registration and regulation including the primary liability to pay tax in the UK on all of its trading activities as a publisher, and
  - iii that the work in question is one for which the publisher has been allocated a UK and Ireland International Standard Book Number.
- c In determining whether the work is published in Ireland by an imprint formally established in Ireland 1b. i. ii. & iii. apply but substituting Ireland for UK and although in Ireland the publisher's list may be in euros, to remain eligible a work must comply with 2a. iv., 2 c. ii. and iii., and 2 d. iii.
- d The work must be published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021. If it has previously been published outside the UK and Ireland it will only be eligible if the original date of publication outside the UK and Ireland is within the previous two years, ie not earlier than 1 October 2018.
- e Every submitted work must be unified and substantial.
- f No English translation of a work written originally in any other language is eligible.
- g Self-published works are not eligible where the author is the publisher. If the publisher is a company which has been specifically set up to publish the work in question, and/or the author is the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company, the work is not eligible. Works which have been published via a commercial arrangement through which the publisher is paid by the author are not eligible. Where an author or his/her agent require submission as a condition of a work's publishing contract that work will not be eligible
- h No work is ineligible because its author has previously won either this prize or any other prize.
- i As long as it otherwise complies with all the rules of the prize, any work of long-form fiction by an author who has previously been shortlisted for the prize may be submitted in addition to, and will not form part of, the publishers' entry quotas.
- j The author of the work must be living at the time it is submitted or called in. The work will only remain eligible for as long as its author is alive through the various stages of the prize up to the time of the announcement of the winner, although this is subject to the discretion of the Literary Director.
- k The decision of the Literary Director as to whether a work is eligible will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

# RULES

## 2 Key stages of the prize

Please note that the submission rules have changed for the 2021 Booker Prize.

### Automatic entries

Physical copies and PDFs for all automatic entries (books by authors who have previously been shortlisted) should be submitted to Four Culture during December 2020. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

### Books published between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted to Four Culture by Friday 29 January 2021.

### Books published between 1 April and 30 September 2021

All entry forms must be submitted to Four Culture by Friday 2 April 2021, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Friday 11 June 2021.

### a General

- i Where print or proof copies are already available, eight copies together with a PDF of the text must be sent to Four Culture at the same time.
- ii If final proofs are sent initially, eight copies of the finished work must then be sent to Four Culture as soon as they are available.
- iii E-books are accepted on condition that the publisher is prepared, if necessary, to send eight bound print copies to Four Culture.
- iv Unless published only as an e-book, at the date of publication of the work at least 1,000 copies must be available for retail in the UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland). For the requirements if the work is longlisted or shortlisted but not published until after the announcement of the longlist or shortlist, see 2 c. iii. and 2. d. iii. below.
- v The Literary Director, in consultation with the chair of the judges, may reject any revised proof or finished copy that differs substantially or materially from a first submitted proof, and the work concerned will not be further considered.
- vi By Friday 11 June 2021, publishers must email Four Culture a high res image (at least 1mb/300dpi) of the book cover and hi res colour photograph of the author, an author bio and a press release for the book

Full details of where to submit are in the **Next steps** section towards the end of this document.

### b Call-in nominations

Each imprint may also provide, by Friday 5 March 2021, a list of up to five further eligible works. This should be **accompanied by the first chapter of the book** plus a justification for each work explaining why it should be considered. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be forwarded to Four Culture as soon as it is available.

- i An imprint that only publishes one high quality work of long form fiction a year may provide a justification for that work as long as it is otherwise eligible.
- ii The justification in each case must not exceed 250 words, and must be written and signed by the author's commissioning editor.
- iii The judges will call in no fewer than eight and no more than 12 from all such nominations they receive.
- iv The judges may also call in any work of long-form fiction published between 1 October 2020 and 30 September 2021, even if that work has not been submitted or nominated for call in by a publisher. If the publisher agrees that the work is to be considered then the publisher must sign an undertaking to the effect that the publisher will comply with all the rules of the prize. The work will not be further considered without this signed undertaking.

# Rules

## c Longlist

If a work is longlisted its publisher will:

- i where the work concerned was published before the announcement of the longlist and when submitted, or called in, was only available in print format, make the work available for sale as an e-book within 10 days of the announcement of the longlist.
- ii where the work concerned was published before the announcement of the longlist and when submitted, or called in, was published only as an e-book, have no fewer than 1,000 print copies available for retail sale in UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland) within 10 days of the announcement of the longlist.
- iii where the work concerned is published after the announcement of the longlist, then on the publication date have the minimum of 1,000 print copies available for retail sale in UK (or in the case of a work published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland) and the work must also be available for sale as an e-book.
- iv use best endeavours to ensure that, where print runs of the longlisted work (wherever it is published) refer to the longlisting on the front or back cover, Booker Prize branding will be used; the submitting publisher must bring this requirement to the attention of the literary agent and, where the submitting publisher is able, to its counterpart(s) elsewhere. This requirement applies if the work goes on to be shortlisted or to win and reference is made on the front or back cover to the shortlisting or win.
- v within 14 days of the longlist announcement provide an electronic text version to the RNIB (or, if requested by the Booker Prize Foundation, to any other approved body) for the purposes of producing and distributing on a not-for-profit basis *accessible copies to visually impaired persons*. (See \*\* below for an explanation of the terminology in italics)

## d Shortlist

If a work is shortlisted its publisher will:

- i inform rights owners that accessible copies for the visually impaired are being produced and distributed (see \*\* below)
- ii where the work concerned is published after the announcement of the shortlist, then on the publication date have the minimum of 1,000 print copies available for retail sale in UK (or in the case of a novel published in Ireland, in the UK and Ireland) and the work must also be available for sale as an ebook.

Publishers are no longer required to make a financial contribution if they have a book shortlisted or if it wins the prize.

\*\*All the italicised words and phrases used are as defined in the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002. The Booker Prize Foundation funds the production (currently by the RNIB) of shortlisted books into editions for the visually impaired.

## 3 Marketing and expectations

- a It is a strict condition of entry that publishers agree to make it a priority to ensure that authors whose works are submitted or called in make themselves available for publicity and events from longlist stage on and that, if shortlisted, authors will participate in the awards ceremony. If there is any problem over the author's availability, Four Culture must be informed immediately.
- b The publisher, publicist and agent of a longlisted author are strongly advised to attend a briefing meeting that is convened by Four Culture shortly after the longlist is announced.
- c None of the print copies that are required as part of the submissions process or as call-ins will be returned to the publishers.

# Submissions

## Next steps

- 1 Complete our new [online submission form](#). There are two forms to fill-in:  
**Title entry form** (please submit one form for each submitted title)  
**Call-in nominations form** (please submit one form for each imprint)
- 2 Send eight physical copies of each submitted book to the below address – ensure you mention **The 2021 Booker Prize** on the envelope:  
The 2021 Booker Prize  
c/o Liz Fricker  
Mango Logistics Group Unit 14/15  
214 Rotherhithe Business Estate  
Rotherhithe New Road  
London SE16 3EH
- 3 Email a PDF of each submitted book, plus a high res image (at least 1mb/300dpi) of the book cover and colour photograph of the author, an author bio and a press release for the book to Four Culture via: [submissions@thebookerprizes.com](mailto:submissions@thebookerprizes.com)
- 4 Email a first chapter of each submitted call-in, plus the justification (no more than 250 words) written and signed by the editor to Four Culture via: [submissions@thebookerprizes.com](mailto:submissions@thebookerprizes.com)

## Reminder of the deadlines

### Automatic entries

Physical copies and PDFs for all automatic entries (books by authors who have previously been shortlisted) should be submitted to Four Culture during December 2020. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

### Books published between 1 October 2020 and 31 March 2021

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs for must be submitted by Friday 29 January 2021.

### Books published between 1 April and 30 September 2021

All entry forms must be submitted by Friday 2 April 2021, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Friday 11 June 2021.

## Additional assets

High res image (at least 1mb/300dpi) of the submitted book cover, high-res colour photograph of the author, an author bio and book press release, to be sent at the latest by Friday 11 June 2021

## Call-ins

Call-ins must be submitted by Friday 5 March 2021. If no text is available at the time of call-in, the first chapter should be forwarded to [submissions@thebookerprizes.com](mailto:submissions@thebookerprizes.com) as soon as it is available

## Queries

Please send all submission queries to Four Culture at:  
[submissions@thebookerprizes.com](mailto:submissions@thebookerprizes.com)

or call Miriam Dennis at +44 (0)7891 423 407.

# The Booker Prize for Fiction

## The 2020 longlist

Diane Cook  
Tsitsi Dangarembga  
Avni Doshi  
Gabriel Krauze  
Hilary Mantel  
Colum McCann  
Maaza Mengiste  
Kiley Reid  
Douglas Stuart  
Brandon Taylor  
Anne Tyler  
Sophie Ward  
C Pam Zhang

*The New Wilderness*  
*This Movable Body*  
*Burnt Sugar*  
*Who They Was*  
*The Mirror & the Light*  
*Apeirogon*  
*The Shadow King*  
*Such a Fun Age*  
*Shuggie Bain*  
*Real Life*  
*Redhead by the Side of the Road*  
*Love and Other Thought Experiments*  
*How Much of These Hills is Gold*

Oneworld Publications  
Faber & Faber  
Hamish Hamilton  
4th Estate  
4th Estate  
Bloomsbury Publishing  
Canongate Books  
Bloomsbury Circus  
Picador  
Daunt Books Publishing  
Chatto & Windus  
Corsair  
Virago

## The 2019 longlist

Margaret Atwood  
Kevin Barry  
Oyinkan Braithwaite  
Lucy Ellmann  
Bernardine Evaristo  
John Lanchester  
Deborah Levy  
Valeria Luiselli  
Chigozie Obioma  
Max Porter  
Salman Rushdie  
Elif Shafak  
Jeanette Winterson

*The Testaments*  
*Night Boat to Tangier*  
*My Sister, The Serial Killer*  
*Ducks, Newburyport*  
*Girl, Woman, Other*  
*The Wall*  
*The Man Who Saw Everything*  
*Lost Children Archive*  
*An Orchestra of Minorities*  
*Lanny*  
*Quichotte*  
*10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World*  
Frankissstein

Chatto & Windus  
Canongate Books  
Atlantic Books  
Galley Beggar Press  
Hamish Hamilton  
Faber & Faber  
Hamish Hamilton  
4th Estate  
Little, Brown  
Faber & Faber  
Jonathan Cape  
Viking  
Jonathan Cape

## The 2018 longlist

Belinda Bauer  
Anna Burns  
Nick Drmaso  
Esi Edugyan  
Guy Gunaratne  
Daisy Johnson  
Rachel Kushner  
Sophie Mackintosh  
Michael Ondaatje  
Richard Powers  
Robin Robertson  
Sally Rooney  
Donal Ryan

*Snap*  
*Milkman*  
*Sabrina*  
*Washington Black*  
*In Our Mad And Furious City*  
*Everything Under*  
*The Mars Room*  
*The Water Cure*  
*Warlight*  
*The Overstory*  
*The Long Take*  
*Normal People*  
*From A Low And Quiet Sea*

Bantam Press  
Faber & Faber  
Granta Books  
Serpent's Tail  
Tinder Press  
Jonathan Cape  
Jonathan Cape  
Hamish Hamilton  
Jonathan Cape  
William Heinemann  
Picador  
Faber & Faber  
Doubleday Ireland

## The 2017 longlist

Paul Auster	<i>4321</i>	Faber & Faber
Sebastian Barry	<i>Days Without End</i>	Faber & Faber
Emily Fridlund Nicolson	<i>History of Wolves</i>	Weidenfeld &
Mohsin Hamid	<i>Exit West</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Mike McCormack	<i>Solar Bones</i>	Canongate Books
Jon McGregor	<i>Reservoir 13</i>	4th Estate
Fiona Mozley	<i>Elmet</i>	JM Originals
Arundhati Roy	<i>The Ministry of Utmost Happiness</i>	Hamish Hamilton
George Saunders Publishing	<i>Lincoln in the Bardo</i>	Bloomsbury
Kamila Shamsie	<i>Home Fire</i>	Bloomsbury Circus
Ali Smith	<i>Autumn</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Zadie Smith	<i>Swing Time</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Colson Whitehead	<i>The Underground Railroad</i>	Fleet

## The 2016 longlist

Paul Beatty	<i>The Sellout</i>	Oneworld
J.M. Coetzee	<i>The Schooldays of Jesus</i>	Harvill Secker
A.L. Kennedy	<i>Serious Sweet</i>	Jonathan Cape
Deborah Levy	<i>Hot Milk</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Graeme Macrae Burnet	<i>His Bloody Project</i>	Contraband
Ian McGuire	<i>The North Water</i>	Scribner UK
David Means	<i>Hystopia</i>	Faber & Faber
Wyl Menmuir	<i>The Many</i>	Salt
Ottessa Moshfegh	<i>Eileen</i>	Jonathan Cape
Virginia Reeves	<i>Work Like Any Other</i>	Scribner UK
Elizabeth Strout	<i>My Name is Lucy Barton</i>	Viking
David Szalay	<i>All That Man Is</i>	Jonathan Cape
Madeleine Thien	<i>Do Not Say We Have Nothing</i>	Granta