



# The Booker Prize 2023

# Rules & Submissions

---

Open for entries from Tuesday December 13 2022

Entries should be sent to the Booker Prize Foundation 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 during December 2022 and January 2023. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

#### Books published between October 1 2022 and March 31 2023

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Monday January 30 2023.

#### Books published between April 1 and September 30 2023

All entry forms must be submitted by Monday April 3 2023, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Monday June 5 2023.

#### Call-ins

All nomination forms, justification letters, first chapters and full PDFs must be submitted by Monday March 6 2023. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be sent as soon as it is available.

Please note, since the 2022 prize there have been changes to our contact details, the delivery address and entry quotas so please read this document carefully.

Direct any submission queries to the Booker Prize Foundation:  
[bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org](mailto:bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org)

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

---

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

#BookerPrize2023 @TheBookerPrizes

# About the prize

## The Booker Prize

The Booker Prize Foundation is a charity whose mission is to promote the art of literature for the public benefit. The Booker Prize and the International Booker Prize are amongst the ways in which it fulfils this aim. 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.

The submissions process for the Booker Prize is now managed by the new in-house team. 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 Director of the Booker Prize Foundation ("the 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 Director who does so on behalf of the Foundation.

The prize may not be divided or withheld. If a vote becomes necessary, the majority decision will be honoured.

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 2018 to 2022, as follows:

1 submission – publishers with no longlisting

---

2 submissions – publishers with 1 or 2 longlisting(s)

---

3 submissions – publishers with 3 or more longlistings

---

Please see pages 7 and 8 for the 2018 to 2022 longlists.

This year we have capped the main submissions at three, but increased the minimum number of call-ins to be selected by the judges. Please pay careful attention to your call-in letters, and contact the Director via the submissions email address if beyond that you feel the judges should know about specific books.

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 1g.

# 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. and c. 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., 2c. ii. and iii., and 2d. iii.
- d The work must be published in the UK or Ireland between October 1 2022 and September 30 2023. 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 October 1 2020.
- 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 Director.
- k The decision of the Director as to whether a work is eligible will be final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into.

## 2 Key stages of the prize

### a General

#### Automatic entries

Physical copies and PDFs for all available automatic entries should be submitted during December 2022 and January 2023. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

#### Books published between October 1 2022 and March 31 2023

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Monday January 30 2023.

#### Books published between April 1 and September 30 2023

All entry forms must be submitted by Monday April 3 2023, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Monday June 5 2023.

- i Where print or proof copies are already available, eight copies together with a PDF of the text must be sent at the same time.
- ii If final proofs are sent initially, eight copies of the finished work must then be sent 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.
- 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 2c. iii. and 2d. iii. below.
- v The 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 Monday June 5 2023 (irrespective of the date of publication) in addition to the entry form, publishers must email a high-resolution colour image of the book cover (minimum 800 pixels high), a press release for the book and colour high resolution photographs of the author (at least one that is horizontal/landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide), Publishers are asked to send multiple image options.

Full details of where to submit are in the **Next steps** section on page 6.

### b Call-in nominations

The call-in system is another method of submission for the prize and the judges are required to consider the nominations carefully. Each imprint may nominate, by Monday March 7 2023, up to five further eligible works. Nominations should be supported by the full PDF of the book, the first chapter in a separate file, and a justification letter, written on headed paper, explaining why the work should be considered. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be forwarded 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 on headed paper and signed by the author's commissioning editor.
- iii The judges will call in no fewer than ten from all such nominations they receive.
- iv The judges may also call in any work of long-form fiction published between October 1 2022 and September 30 2023, 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, the Booker Prize Foundation 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 the Booker Prize Foundation 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 [online submission form](#).  
There are two forms to fill in:  
**Submissions 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 Booker Prize 2023** on the envelope:  
  
**The Booker Prize 2023**  
Parallel.Net Limited  
8 Hurlingham Business Park  
Sullivan Road  
London SW6 3DU
- 3 Email a PDF of each submitted book, plus a high res image (minimum 800 pixels high) of the book cover and multiple high-res colour photographs (at least one of horizontal/landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide) of the author and a press release for the book to the Booker Prize Foundation at: [bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org](mailto:bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org)
- 4 Email, for each submitted call-in, a PDF, the first chapter in a separate file, and a justification letter (no more than 250 words) on headed paper, written and signed by the commissioning editor to the Booker Prize Foundation at: [bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org](mailto:bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org)

## Reminder of the deadlines

### Automatic entries

Physical copies and PDFs for all available automatic entries should be submitted during December 2022 and January 2023. Completed entry forms can follow after, as per the below deadlines.

### Books published between October 1 2022 and March 31 2023

All entry forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Monday January 30 2023.

### Books published between April 1 and September 30 2023

All entry forms must be submitted by Monday April 3 2023, with physical copies and PDFs arriving no later than Monday June 5 2023.

### Additional assets

High res image (minimum 800 pixels high) of the submitted book cover, a press release and multiple colour photographs of the author (including one of horizontal/landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide) to be sent at the latest by Monday June 5 2023.

### Call-ins

All nomination forms, justification letters, PDFs, and first chapters must be submitted by Monday March 7 2023. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be sent as soon as it is available.

## Queries

Please send all submission queries the Booker Prize Foundation at: [bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org](mailto:bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org)

# The Booker Prize **longlists**

## Longlist 2022

NoViolet Bulawayo	<i>Glory</i>	Chatto & Windus
Hernan Diaz	<i>Trust</i>	Picador
Percival Everett	<i>The Trees</i>	Influx Press
Karen Joy Fowler	<i>Booth</i>	Serpent's Tail
Alan Garner	<i>Treacle Walker</i>	4th Estate
Shehan Karunatilaka	<i>The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida</i>	Sort of Books
Claire Keegan	<i>Small Things Like These</i>	Faber
Graeme Macrae Burnet	<i>Case Study</i>	Saraband
Audrey Magee	<i>The Colony</i>	Faber
Maddie Mortimer	<i>Maps of our Spectacular Bodies</i>	Picador
Leila Mottley	<i>Nightcrawling</i>	Bloomsbury Circus
Selby Wynn Schwartz	<i>After Sappho</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Elizabeth Strout	<i>Oh William!</i>	Viking

## Longlist 2021

Anuk Arudpragasam	<i>A Passage North</i>	Granta Books
Rachel Cusk	<i>Second Place</i>	Faber
Damon Galgut	<i>The Promise</i>	Chatto & Windus
Nathan Harris	<i>The Sweetness of Water</i>	Tinder Press
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>Klara and the Sun</i>	Faber
Karen Jennings	<i>An Island</i>	Holland House Books
Mary Lawson	<i>A Town Called Solace</i>	Chatto & Windus
Patricia Lockwood	<i>No One is Talking About This</i>	Bloomsbury Circus
Nadifa Mohamed	<i>The Fortune Men</i>	Viking
Richard Powers	<i>Bewilderment</i>	Heinemann Hutchinson
Sunjeev Sahota	<i>China Room</i>	Harvill Secker
Maggie Shipstead	<i>Great Circle</i>	Doubleday
Francis Spufford	<i>Light Perpetual</i>	Faber

## Longlist 2020

Diane Cook	<i>The New Wilderness</i>	Oneworld Publications
Tsitsi Dangarembga	<i>This Mournable Body</i>	Faber & Faber
Avni Doshi	<i>Burnt Sugar</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Gabriel Krauze	<i>Who They Was</i>	4th Estate
Hilary Mantel	<i>The Mirror &amp; the Light</i>	4th Estate
Colum McCann	<i>Apeiogon</i>	Bloomsbury Publishing
Maaza Mengiste	<i>The Shadow King</i>	Canongate Books
Kiley Reid	<i>Such a Fun Age</i>	Bloomsbury Circus
Douglas Stuart	<i>Shuggie Bain</i>	Picador
Brandon Taylor	<i>Real Life</i>	Daunt Books Publishing
Anne Tyler	<i>Redhead by the Side of the Road</i>	Chatto & Windus
Sophie Ward	<i>Love and Other Thought Experiments</i>	Corsair
C Pam Zhang	<i>How Much of These Hills is Gold</i>	Virago

## Longlist 2019

Margaret Atwood	<i>The Testaments</i>	Chatto & Windus
Kevin Barry	<i>Night Boat to Tangier</i>	Canongate Books
Oyinkan Braithwaite	<i>My Sister, The Serial Killer</i>	Atlantic Books
Lucy Ellmann	<i>Ducks, Newburyport</i>	Galley Beggar Press
Bernardine Evaristo	<i>Girl, Woman, Other</i>	Hamish Hamilton
John Lanchester	<i>The Wall</i>	Faber & Faber
Deborah Levy	<i>The Man Who Saw Everything</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Valeria Luiselli	<i>Lost Children Archive</i>	4th Estate
Chigozie Obioma	<i>An Orchestra of Minorities</i>	Little, Brown
Max Porter	<i>Lanny</i>	Faber & Faber
Salman Rushdie	<i>Quichotte</i>	Jonathan Cape
Elif Shafak	<i>10 Minutes 38 Seconds in This Strange World</i>	Viking
Jeanette Winterson	<i>Frankissstein</i>	Jonathan Cape

## Longlist 2018

Belinda Bauer	<i>Snap</i>	Bantam Press
Anna Burns	<i>Milkman</i>	Faber & Faber
Nick Drnaso	<i>Sabrina</i>	Granta Books
Esi Edugyan	<i>Washington Black</i>	Serpent's Tail
Guy Gunaratne	<i>In Our Mad And Furious City</i>	Tinder Press
Daisy Johnson	<i>Everything Under</i>	Jonathan Cape
Rachel Kushner	<i>The Mars Room</i>	Jonathan Cape
Sophie Mackintosh	<i>The Water Cure</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Michael Ondaatje	<i>Warlight</i>	Jonathan Cape
Richard Powers	<i>The Overstory</i>	William Heinemann
Robin Robertson	<i>The Long Take</i>	Picador
Sally Rooney	<i>Normal People</i>	Faber & Faber
Donal Ryan	<i>From A Low And Quiet Sea</i>	Doubleday Ireland

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

#BookerPrize2023 @TheBookerPrizes