

The
International
Booker
Prize
2025

The International Booker Prize 2025

Rules & Submissions

Open for submissions from Wednesday, 10 July 2024

The rules and deadlines have changed this year so please read this document carefully

The Booker Prize Foundation is introducing a submissions quota, along with a call-in system for the prize, which is explained on page 3.

To assist the judges with the volume of reading required, please send submissions to the Booker Prize Foundation as soon as they are available and do not wait until the deadlines.

Final deadlines for submissions

For works published between 1 May and 31 December 2024

All submission forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Friday, 6 September 2024.

For works published between 31 December 2024 and 30 April 2025

All submission forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Friday, 13 December 2024. Supporting assets for all submissions must also be received by this date.

Call-in nominations deadline

All call-in nomination forms, justification letters, first chapters and full PDFs must be submitted by Friday, 1 November 2024. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be sent as soon as it is available.



Direct any submission queries to the Booker Prize Foundation:
internationalsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org



Entry forms are online here:
thebookerprizes.com/submissions

www.thebookerprizes.com

#InternationalBooker2025 @TheBookerPrizes

About the International Booker Prize

The Booker Prize Foundation is a registered charity (no.1090049) established in 2002, which exists to inspire more people to read – and write – the world’s best fiction. It is responsible for awarding the Booker Prize and the International Booker Prize.

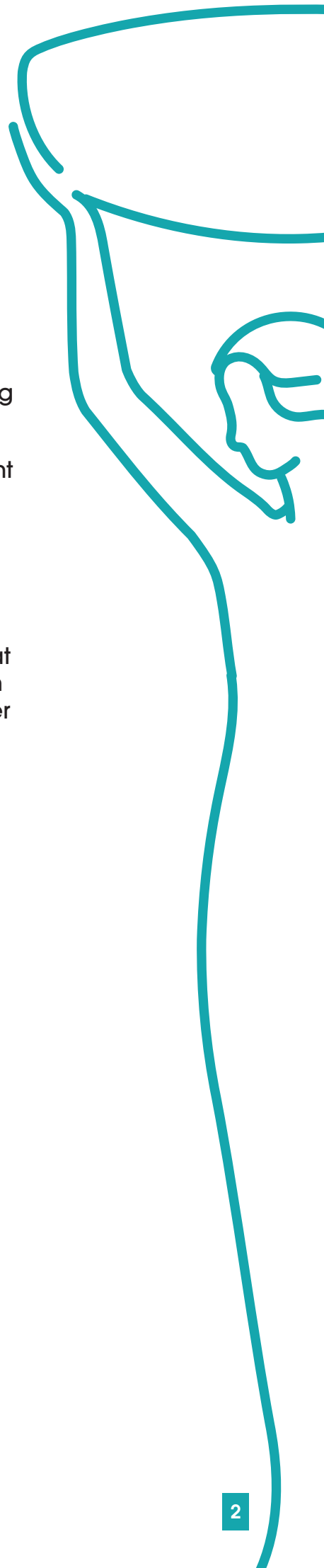
The Booker Prize has rewarded and celebrated world-class talent for over fifty years, shaping the canon of 20th and 21st century literature. In adding the International Booker Prize for translated fiction, and a year-round, far-reaching digital portfolio, the Booker Prizes are now the globally recognised home of great writing.

The symmetrical relationship between the two prizes ensures that the Booker honours fiction on a global basis: outstanding fiction is highlighted by the prizes for English-speaking readers, whether that work was originally written in English (the Booker Prize) or translated into English (the International Booker Prize).

The International Booker Prize is the world’s most significant award for a single work of translated fiction. It is awarded annually to the best (in the opinion of the judges) eligible work of long-form fiction or collection of short stories written by an author of any nationality and translated into English, and published in the UK and/or Ireland.

The website, thebookerprizes.com, supported by Instagram, TikTok, X and Facebook accounts, as well as a Facebook book club, YouTube channel, podcast and a Substack newsletter – is a unique online space which showcases the 600+ exceptional books that have won, or been longlisted or shortlisted, for the Booker Prize and International Booker Prize. The website aims to be an entertaining and illuminating content destination that combines both practical information about the prizes past and present with fresh and original features, including a Monthly Spotlight, to bring the books and their authors to life and encourage readers new and old to visit and revisit titles in the ‘Booker Library’.

Other aspects of the Foundation’s work include the funding of Braille and audio editions of Booker Prize books through the RNIB, the annual UEA Booker Prize Foundation Scholarship and Books Unlocked, a long-standing reading initiative in prisons.



About the prize

Administration and judging

The International Booker Prize is managed by Administrator Fiammetta Rocco and the in-house team at the Booker Prize Foundation, led by the Chief Executive, Gaby Wood.

Each year's panel of five judges, including a Chair, is chosen with the advice of the Booker Prize Foundation Advisory Committee, and is appointed by the Booker Prize Foundation.

The judges are responsible for compiling a longlist of 12 or 13 books 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 Administrator of the prize, who does so on behalf of the Booker Prize Foundation.

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

The winners' prize purse is £50,000; £25,000 for the author and £25,000 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators). There will be a prize of £5,000 for each of the shortlisted titles: £2,500 for the author and £2,500 for the translator (or divided equally between multiple translators).

Publishers' entry quotas

Any reference to "work" or "works" throughout these rules means a work or works of long-form fiction or a collection of short stories.

In 2024, the International Booker Prize received 149 eligible submissions – the largest number in the history of the prize. To ensure that the submissions do not continue to increase exponentially and that all five judges can continue to consider every work submitted, this year the Booker Prize Foundation – following a consultation with its advisory committee – is introducing a submissions quota. This will be accompanied by a call-in system allowing publishers to write to judges to pitch for additional works to be considered. The Booker Prize Foundation already uses a quota and call-in system for the autumn Booker Prize and call-ins play a key role, so please pay careful attention to them.

The details are as follows:

- Each eligible imprint may submit up to six works each
- Each eligible imprint may also nominate as many additional works as they would like for the judges to consider for their call-ins.
- The judges may also call in any work published in the eligible time period, even if that work has not been submitted or nominated for call-in by a publisher.

The current submissions quota and the unrestricted call-in nominations will be kept under review and may change in future years.

All submissions, call-in nominations and judges' call-ins are made on a confidential basis 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. The English translation of any work in print or electronic format written originally in a language other than English and published in the UK and/or Ireland by an imprint formally established in the UK and/or Ireland (see 1b below) is eligible. The imprint must publish a list of at least two works of contemporary fiction by different authors each year. These two will not include a work by the publisher him/her/herself. If the publisher is a company, the two will not include 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 it must comply with all of the following:
 - i. the imprint sells its list in pounds sterling
 - ii. where the imprint's books are sold in print, its books are distributed through national UK retail outlets
 - iii. 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
 - iv. that the work in question is one for which the publisher has been allocated a UK 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 2c. i. and ii.
- d. The work for the 2025 prize must be published in the UK and/or Ireland between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025.
- e. Works that have been self-translated are eligible.
- f. Works that have not been published in their original language, for example due to censorship, are eligible. However, publishers must be able to provide evidence that the book was originally written in another language and then translated into English.
- 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 ineligible. Works are not eligible if they have been published under any arrangement by which the publisher is paid to publish by the author and/or the translator and/or anyone on behalf of the author and/or the translator.
- h. No entry shall be ineligible because its author has previously won either this prize or any other prize.
- i. Both the author and the translator of the work must be living at the time it is submitted or called in, and, subject always to the discretion of the Administrator of the prize (see also 1k below) the work will only remain eligible for so long as its author and translator are both alive through the various stages of the prize up to the time of the public announcement of the winner.
- j. A work by an author that is published in separate volumes is only eligible if the volumes are published under a single ISBN.
- k. The decision of the Administrator of the prize as to whether a work is eligible shall be final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into.

2 Key stages of the prize

a. General

For works published between 1 May and 31 December 2024

All submission forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted at the latest by Friday, 6 September 2024.

For works published between 31 December 2024 and 30 April 2025

All submission forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by Friday, 13 December 2024.

If you anticipate an issue with either of these deadlines for any of your books, please contact the Booker Prize Foundation team as soon as possible.

- i. As soon as proofs or finished copies of the work are available, 10 physical copies, together with a PDF of the text, must be sent as soon as possible.
- ii. If final proofs are sent initially, 10 copies of the finished work and an updated PDF 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 10 bound print copies, and the publisher agrees to the longlist and shortlist requirements detailed on page 6.
- iv. The Administrator, 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.
- v. By Friday, 13 December, 2024 (irrespective of the date of publication) in addition to the entry form and copies of the work, publishers must email:
 - vi. A high-resolution colour image of the book cover (minimum 800 pixels high)
 - vii. A press release for the book
 - viii. Multiple high-resolution headshots of the author and translator (at least one for each that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide)

Full details of where to submit are in the [Next steps](#) section on page 8.

b. Call-in nominations

The call-in system is a secondary method of submission for the prize and the judges are required to consider the nominations carefully. Each imprint may nominate, by Friday, 1 November 2024, as many additional works as they would like.

An imprint that only publishes one contemporary work a year and is therefore not eligible to make a standard submission may nominate that work as a call-in as long as it is otherwise eligible.

Call-in nominations should be supported by:

- A PDF of the book. If no text is available at the time of a call-in, it should be forwarded as soon as it is available.
- The first chapter in a separate file
- A justification letter (no more than 250 words) on headed paper explaining to the judges why the work should be considered, which is written and signed by the commissioning editor.

Rules

- i. The judges may also call in any work of long-form fiction published between 1 May 2024 and 30 April 2025, 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.
- ii. Late acquisitions by publishers may be accepted at the discretion of the Administrator.

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 300 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 300 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, the 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.

d. Shortlist

If a work is shortlisted its publisher will:

- i. where the work concerned when submitted, or called in, was published only as an e-book, have no fewer than 1,000 print copies available for retail sale within 10 days of the announcement of the shortlist. If it is published after the announcement of the shortlist, then on publication there must be the minimum of 1,000 print copies available for retail sale.

e. Winner

The publisher of the winning work will:

- i. inform rights owners that accessible copies for the visually impaired are being produced and distributed (see** below)
- ii. advise the Booker Prize Foundation as to the ownership of the audio rights, and
- iii. (if the owner of the audio rights is the submitting publisher and an audio book of the work has been produced or will be produced within one month of the announcement of the winner) make a master-copy of the audiobook

RULES

available free of charge to the RNIB; this will be used in the production of the work in an audio edition for the visually impaired.

** The terms “accessible copies” and “visually impaired” are defined in the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002. The Booker Prize Foundation funds RNIB to produce the winning work 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 and translators whose works are submitted or called in make themselves available for publicity and events from longlist stage on and that, if shortlisted, authors and translators will participate in the awards ceremony. If there is any problem over the author or translator’s availability, the Booker Prize Foundation must be informed immediately. Publishers are responsible for arranging their author and translator’s travel and accommodation for events, and covering costs.
- 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 both the longlist and the shortlist 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. Further copies will be required at longlist and shortlist stage. Quantities will be specified in the briefing meetings.

Submissions

Next steps

Complete our online form.
There are two types of form to fill in:

[Submission form](#)

(please submit one form for each submitted title)

[Call-in nomination form](#)

(please submit one form for each nominated title)

For submissions

- > Send 10 physical copies of each submitted book to the below address – ensure you mention **The International Booker Prize 2025** on the envelope:

The International Booker Prize 2025
Parallel.Net Limited
8 Hurlingham Business Park
Sullivan Road
London SW6 3DU

Email the below to the Booker Prize Foundation at:
internationalsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

- A PDF of the book
- A high-resolution colour image of the book cover (minimum 800 pixels high)
- A press release for the book
- Multiple high-resolution headshots of the author and translator (at least one for each that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide)

For call-in nominations

- > For each call-in nomination, email the below to the **Booker Prize Foundation** at:
internationalsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org
- A PDF of the book. If no text is available at the time of a call-in, it should be forwarded as soon as it is available
- The first chapter in a separate file
- A justification letter (no more than 250 words) on headed paper explaining why the work should be considered, which is written and signed by the commissioning editor.

Submissions

Reminder of the deadlines

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For works published between 31 December 2024 and 30 April 2025

All submission forms, physical copies and PDFs must be submitted by **Friday, 13 December 2024**.

Additional assets

Additional assets for all submissions (irrespective of publication date) must be sent at the latest by **Friday, 13 December 2024**.

Call-ins

All call-in forms and assets should be submitted by **Friday, 1 November 2024**.

If you anticipate an issue with either of these deadlines for any of your books, please contact the Booker Prize Foundation team as soon as possible.

Queries

Please send all submission queries to the Booker Prize Foundation at:

internationalsubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

www.thebookerprizes.com

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