



The Booker Prize 2025 Rules & submissions

Open for submissions from
Tuesday, 10 December 2024

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.

Automatic entries

For any books published by previously shortlisted authors that are already available, please send physical copies, PDFs and additional assets to the Booker Prize Foundation by Monday, 16 December 2024. Submission forms can be completed after, as per the following deadlines.

Books published between 1 October 2024 and 30 April 2025

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by Monday, 27 January 2025.

Books published between 1 May 2025 and 30 September 2025

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by Monday, 31 March 2025. If physical copies and PDFs are not available in time for this final deadline, please contact bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

Call-ins

All call-in nomination forms, justification letters, first chapters and full PDFs must be submitted by Monday, 3 March 2025. If no text is available at the time of call-in, it should be sent as soon as it is available.

Final assets

This year we will not be pre-notifying publishers if their authors have been longlisted. Please ensure that you have supplied final versions of your print and digital assets for all of your titles by Friday, 27 June as these will be utilised for the public announcement in July.



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



Submission forms are online here:
thebookerprizes.com/submissions

About the 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 Booker Prize, founded in 1969, is awarded annually by the Booker Prize Foundation to the best (in the opinion of the judges) eligible work of long-form fiction written originally in English by an author of any nationality, 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.

Administration and judging

The prize is administered by the in-house team at the Booker Prize Foundation, led by the Chief Executive, Gaby Wood. 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 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 Chief Executive 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.

Each shortlisted author receives £2,500 and a bespoke 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 2020 – 2024, 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 12 to 14 for the 2020 – 2024 longlists.

The submission numbers are capped to enable all five judges to consider all submissions. A call-in system exists to allow publishers to write to judges to pitch for additional books to be considered – please pay careful attention to this element of the judging as it plays a key role. If you feel that judges should know about specific books beyond those you have entered via the submissions and call-in process, please write to the Chief Executive via the submissions email address.

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.

1 Eligibility

- a** Any work of fiction (see 1e. below) in print or electronic format, written originally in English and published in the UK and/or Ireland by an imprint formally established in the UK and/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
 - 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 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. & iv. 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 and/or Ireland between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025. 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 2022.
- 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 their 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 longform 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 Chief Executive.
- k** The decision of the Chief Executive 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

For any books published by previously shortlisted authors that are already available, please send physical copies and PDFs to the Booker Prize Foundation before Monday, 16 December 2024. Submission forms can be completed after, as per the following deadlines.

Books published between 1 October 2024 and 30 April 2025

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by Monday, 27 January 2025.

Books published between 1 May 2025 and 30 September 2025

All submission forms, physical copies, PDFs and additional assets must be submitted by Monday, 31 March 2025. If physical copies, PDFs and additional assets are not available in time for this final deadline, please contact bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org.

- i** Where print or proof copies are already available, 10 copies together with a PDF of the text must be sent at the same time.
- ii** If final proofs are sent initially, 10 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 sends 10 bound print copies with their submission, for the judges' consideration. The publisher must also agree to the longlist and shortlist requirements detailed on page 8.
- 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). 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 Chief Executive, 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** For each title, publishers must email the following assets, by the respective deadlines above:

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- **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 (at least one that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide)**
-

Final assets

This year we will not be pre-notifying publishers if their authors have been longlisted. Please ensure that you have supplied final versions of your print and digital assets for all of your titles by Friday, 27 June as these will be utilised for the public announcement in July.

Full details of where to submit are in the Next steps section on page 10.

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 Monday, 3 March 2025, up to five further eligible works. 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 why the work should be considered, written and signed by the commissioning editor.**

- i The judges will call in no fewer than ten from all such nominations they receive.

- ii The judges may also call in any work of long-form fiction published between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 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.

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, 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.
- 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.** 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 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.
- iv** 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 from longlist stage on and that, if shortlisted, authors will participate in the ceremony and a series of shortlist public events. The winning author is requested to participate in a media day, and at least one public event. If there is any problem over the author's availability, the Booker Prize Foundation must be informed immediately. Publishers are responsible for arranging their author'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 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. Further copies will be required at longlist and shortlist stage. Quantities will be specified in the briefing meetings.

Next steps

Complete our online forms.
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.
Please ensure you mention The Booker Prize 2025 on the address label
AND the invoice.

This helps the titles to be correctly allocated to our account.

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

Email the below to the Booker Prize Foundation at:

bookersubmissions@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 (at least one that is landscape orientation at a minimum of 4000 pixels wide)
-

For call-in nominations

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- 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, written and signed by the commissioning editor.

Reminder of the deadlines

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Call-ins

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Final assets

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Queries

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bookersubmissions@bookerprizefoundation.org

Longlist 2024

Colin Barrett	<i>Wild Houses</i>	Jonathan Cape
Rita Bullwinkel	<i>Headshot</i>	Daunt Originals
Percival Everett	<i>James</i>	Mantle
Samantha Harvey	<i>Orbital</i>	Jonathan Cape
Rachel Kushner	<i>Creation Lake</i>	Jonathan Cape
Hisham Matar	<i>My Friends</i>	Viking
Claire Messud	<i>This Strange Eventful History</i>	Fleet
Anne Michaels	<i>Held</i>	Bloomsbury Publishing
Tommy Orange	<i>Wandering Stars</i>	Harvill Secker
Sarah Perry	<i>Enlightenment</i>	Jonathan Cape
Richard Powers	<i>Playground</i>	Hutchinson Heinemann
Yael van der Wouden	<i>The Safekeep</i>	Viking
Charlotte Wood	<i>Stone Yard Devotional</i>	Sceptre

Longlist 2023

Ayòbámi Adébáyò	<i>A Spell of Good Things</i>	Canongate
Sebastian Barry	<i>Old God's Time</i>	Faber
Sarah Bernstein	<i>Study for Obedience</i>	Granta
Jonathan Escoffery	<i>If I Survive You</i>	4th Estate
Elaine Feeney	<i>How to Build a Boat</i>	Harvill Secker
Paul Harding	<i>This Other Eden</i>	Hutchinson Heinemann
Siân Hughes	<i>Pearl</i>	Indigo Press
Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow	<i>All the Little Bird-Hearts</i>	Tinder Press
Paul Lynch	<i>Prophet Song</i>	Oneworld
Martin MaInnes	<i>In Ascension</i>	Atlantic Books
Chetna Maroo	<i>Western Lane</i>	Picador
Paul Murray	<i>The Bee Sting</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Tan Twan Eng	<i>The House of Doors</i>	Canongate

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 <i>Burnet</i>	<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
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>	Hutchinson Heinemann
Sunjeev Sahota	<i>China Room</i>	Harvill Secker
Maggie Shipstead	<i>Great Circle</i>	Doubleday
Francis Spufford	<i>Light Perpetual</i>	Faber

The Booker Prize longlists

Longlist 2020

Diane Cook	<i>The New Wilderness</i>	Oneworld
Tsitsi Dangarembga	<i>This Mournable Body</i>	Faber
Avni Doshi	<i>Burnt Sugar</i>	Hamish Hamilton
Gabriel Krauze	<i>Who They Was</i>	4th Estate
Hilary Mantel	<i>The Mirror & the Light</i>	4th Estate
Colum McCann	<i>Apeirogon</i>	Bloomsbury Publishing
Maaza Mengiste	<i>The Shadow King</i>	Canongate
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