

The London Library Emerging Writers Programme 2022/23

Thank you for your interest in The London Library Emerging Writers Programme.

The Programme, now in its fourth year, is a unique opportunity which offers writers, in all genres, one year's free membership of The London Library and includes writing development masterclasses, literary networking opportunities, peer support and guidance in use of the Library's resources. With its rich cultural heritage, extensive open access book collection, dedicated writing spaces and its diverse community of established writers, the [benefits of Library membership](#) are invaluable.

For over 180 years The London Library has played a central role in inspiring writers and researchers and has helped them explore and develop their work. From Charles Dickens to Sarah Waters, Charles Darwin to Simon Schama, Virginia Woolf to Kazuo Ishiguro, writers have consistently found it to be an unrivalled resource.

The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is open to anyone over 16 years of age who is committed to pursuing a career in writing and wants to develop their practice but has yet had their work professionally published or produced. Applicants should be working, or planning to work, on a specific project, with the aim of publication or production, and have a clear idea of how they might use the Library's resources to achieve that aim. They should be willing to fully participate in all elements of the Programme and immerse themselves in the writing community it offers. There is no application fee and participation on the Programme is funded.

The Programme runs from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Successful applicants will be invited to a Programme launch on 6 July 2022. Sessions are usually on the third Wednesday of the month and alternate between peer support meetings and masterclasses or workshops, all of which are designed to work across all or most forms of writing. The Programme will take place, as much as possible, at the Library, however will be adapted to move online if required according to Covid-19 restrictions. Some access or travel bursaries are available.

Applicants will be selected anonymously by a panel of judges, including writers and industry professionals from across all different forms of writing. You'll find the names of the judges on our [webpage](#).

Applications close at 11am on 2 March 2022. Apply using the [Online Application Form](#).*

** N.B. If you are unable to access the form, it may help to go through a different network (3G or 4G) or try switching off your web protect security setting.*

Please read through the following Application Guidelines (including eligibility requirements) carefully before you submit your application. Applications which do not follow the guidelines will not be considered. You can find a comprehensive set of [FAQs here](#). If you still have any questions regarding your application, please contact the Programme Team, on 0207 766 4765 or emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application and good luck!

The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is only possible because of the generous support the Library has received from the International Friends of The London Library, the Peter Stormonth Darling Charitable Trust, the Julio and Maria Marta Nuñez Memorial Fund and other anonymous donors.

Two bursary funds are available to support members of the cohort who may face financial, health, or any other barriers that would prevent them fully accessing the Programme. The Emerging Writers Programme Access Bursary has been generously funded by the International Friends of The London Library to help support those participants most in need and the Virago Participation Bursary has been generously funded to support Black women and Black writers from under-represented genders.

Application Guidelines

These guidelines will help you decide whether you are eligible for the Programme and will guide you in preparing a complete application. Please read the submission instructions carefully before completing your application.

Eligibility

1. The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is open to anyone aged 16 or over (as of 1 July 2022).
2. Applicants must be resident in the UK for the duration of the Programme.
3. This Programme is for emerging writers. We define an emerging writer as someone who:
 - has not previously published a novel, full-length non-fiction book, or a full collection of poems or short stories;
 - has not had work professionally produced via mainstream channels, studios or theatres for film, television or stage;
 - is not currently under contract to produce any of the above.

This does not include:

- self-published work;
 - work published online;
 - chapbooks or pamphlets;
 - short stories, articles or poems published within an anthology, journal, magazine or newspaper;
 - works produced non-professionally for film, television or stage, or works for fringe theatre productions;
 - textbooks or academic texts.
4. The Programme is open to writers of any genre.
 5. Applicants must be committed to making use of The London Library resources including:
 - use of the physical space as a base for writing and networking;
 - use of the collection (both physical and digital) to inspire thought and inform research and writing.
 6. The Programme is open to writers living anywhere in the UK, however, applicants must be committed to attending Emerging Writers Programme events, including peer support meetings, which take place at the Library (Covid-19 restrictions allowing). This will include a launch (6 July 2022), an end-of-Programme event (to be announced), and one event per month (usually the third Wednesday of the month). Bursaries are available to members of the cohort who need support to participate in the Programme, this may include travel costs, childcare or any other access needs. This will be allocated on a case-by-case basis, based on proof of need.
 7. Applicants must be planning to work on a specific project or projects whilst on the Programme.
 8. Employees and trustees of The London Library and current or previous Emerging Writers Programme participants are not eligible to apply.
 9. Current London Library members are eligible to apply.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the submission guidelines. We reserve the right to disqualify any submissions that do not fully comply. If you have any questions relating to your eligibility or if you are unsure, for any reason, whether you would be able to participate in the Programme, please contact the Programme Team on 0207 766 4765 or email on emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk.

N.B. Each applicant's place is supported by our philanthropic funders. Financial support covers each applicant's membership and entry to all events on the Programme. The Emerging Writers Programme is not publicly funded.

Selection

1. Applicants will be assessed on the strength and potential of their writing. Commitment to full participation in the Programme and use of the Library as a resource will also be taken into consideration. We are particularly interested in how this specific Programme might help applicants develop their work.
2. We will be looking for a diverse range of projects, genres and writing styles when selecting the cohort of Emerging Writers.
3. The Emerging Writers Programme can accommodate up to 40 writers.
4. Applicants will be selected anonymously by a panel of judges including writers and industry professionals from across all different forms of writing.
5. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, circumstances, and any age upwards of 16.

Submissions

1. To apply, you must fully complete the [Online Application Form](#)* which asks for:
 - Your personal/contact details;
 - A little about you and your writing project, including a personal statement, why you are applying for the programme, a very brief synopsis of the project you intend to work on throughout the Programme and the genre of your project. Please do not include your name or any clearly identifying information on this section of the form as this section will be judged anonymously;
 - An uploaded sample of your writing, up to 1200 words, from the same project or in the same genre. Please make sure your name is not on the document as your writing sample will be judged anonymously. Please check headers/footers etc.
 - Confirmations
 - An Equal Opportunities Form.
2. All writing samples must be uploaded as Word documents or PDFs. Please do not send documents in Pages or Final Cut as we will not be able to open them. Do not lock your documents for editing as we will need to add your unique booking reference to it.
3. Your writing sample must not exceed the word count of 1200 words. Any samples over the word count will not be considered and your application will be void.
4. Please do not include CVs as these will be disregarded.
5. You will be able to save your application and resume another time but, once submitted, your application cannot be altered.
6. We will only accept one application per person.
7. Applications must be received by 11am on Wednesday 2 March 2022. You will not be able to submit applications after the deadline.
8. You will be sent an immediate automated email confirmation to say that we have received your application.
9. All work will be treated confidentially and, if not selected, will be destroyed after the application process.
10. Successful applicants will be contacted by early June 2022.

* N.B. If you are unable to access the form, it may help to go through a different network (3G or 4G) or try switching off your web protect security setting.

11. Incomplete applications or applications which do not comply with the above guidelines will not be eligible.