

The London Library Emerging Writers Programme 2021/22

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

The Programme, now in its third 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.

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

The Programme runs from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. Successful applicants will be invited to a Programme Launch on 8 July 2021. This programme is designed to take place as much as possible at the Library. However, it will be adapted to move online as required according to Covid-19 restrictions (much of this year's Programme has successfully been adapted to take place online).

Applications close at 11am on 5 March 2021.

Please read through the following Application Guidelines (including eligibility requirements) carefully before you submit your application. If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact the Programme Team, on 0207 766 4765 or email emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application and good luck!

[Apply online now](#)

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

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 2021).
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 and 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, which include peer support meetings, which take place at the Library (Covid-19 restrictions allowing). This will include a

launch (8 July 2021), an end-of-Programme event (30 June 2022), and one event per month (usually the third Wednesday of the month) in between. We may be able to offer a travel bursary to enable attendance at events. This will be allocated on a case-by-case basis.

7. Applicants must be planning to work on a specific project or projects whilst on the programme.
8. Staff and trustees of The London Library and current 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.

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.
5. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, circumstances, and any age upwards of 16.

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.

The Virago Participation Bursary has been funded by Virago Books to support Black women and Black writers from other underrepresented genders to overcome any financial barriers that would prevent them from accessing the full Programme, including travel costs, supporting childcare or other caring responsibilities and any other costs incurred in order to participate fully in the Programme. Successful applicants who are eligible will be invited to apply for the bursary on acceptance of their place on the Programme.

Submissions

1. To apply, you must fully complete the [online 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 and signature;
 - An Equal Opportunities Form.

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

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 Friday 5 March 2021. You will not be able to submit applications after the deadline.
8. You will receive immediate automated email confirmation 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 2021.
11. Incomplete applications or application which do not comply with the guidelines will not be eligible.