

Terms and Conditions, Rules and Eligibilities

For Poetry

- All entries are judged anonymously.
- Up to 10 poems but no fewer than 6 can be included in a single submission.
- Poems: 60 lines maximum. The title is not included in the line count, nor are lines between text or stanzas.
- One payment of entry fee entitles entrants to submit up to 10 pieces of poetry.

For Short Stories

- 1 short story only per submission.
- Maximum word count is 2,500 words.
- One payment of entry fee entitles entrants to submit 1 story.

Online entries are greatly preferred, although postal entries are accepted.

The deadline date for entries is 12 midnight (UK time) on May 1st 2018 (postal entries postmarked May 1th but received later will still be accepted).

Entrants may withdraw entries from the competition by notification via email or post only; entry fees will not be refunded.

Eligibility

The Competition is open to writers of any nationality and of any residence aged 18 and over at the time of the closing date.

Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant. By submitting you are confirming that the work is your own.

Entries can have been previously published in print or online, been broadcast or won a prize on the condition that the entrant has not had a collection of poems published, a collection of short stories or a novel published by a recognised publisher.

Submissions will become automatically ineligible should the entrant have a collection or novel accepted for publication before the prize-giving date.

Entrants must inform The Belfast Book Festival as soon as possible if the entrant accepts an offer of publication for a collection elsewhere. Entry fees in these circumstances will not be refunded.

Short-Listing

A shortlist of 10 poets and 10 short story writers will be announced on the opening day of the Belfast Book Festival - Wednesday June 6th 2018.

Winners will be announced by the conclusion of Belfast Book Festival 2018.

The shortlisted poets and short story writers will be notified privately via email shortly prior to public announcement on the website and social media.

Copyright

Worldwide copyright of each entry remains entirely with the author, but the Belfast Book Festival Mairtín Crawford Award will have the unrestricted right to publish the winning poems and stories in any future anthologies of the prize and/or in any relevant promotional material

Receipt of entry

All receipt of entry will be confirmed via email or post. If a postal entry requires receipt of entry a stamped SAE must be included with the original submission.

Fees

£5 for each submission of up to 6 poems or 1 short story.

Fees are to be paid via the Crescent Arts Centre website, by phone on 028 90 242338 or in person at The Crescent Arts Centre. Writers will receive a 9 digit order number by email at the point of payment. Valid order number

to be included submission email Subject Line. Once a submission fee has been paid, all submissions should be sent to bbfsubmissions@crescentarts.org. Subject Line should read "Submission - AuthorName_Discipline(eg Poetry)_OrderNumber" - eg Submission - David Murphy_Poetry_000000123

Judging

The judges' decision is final.

All pieces are judged anonymously

No individual correspondence with any judge may be entered into at anytime.

Submissions Formatting

Poetry

Entries must be written in English.

Entries should be typed, single spaced, in plain, black, 12 point, Times New Roman font.

Entries must be no longer than 60 lines. There is no minimum line count. (Space between text or stanzas not included in line count)

Each page should be numbered at the bottom of the page if the poem runs to more than one page long.

All pages must include a header with the title of the poem only. If the entry is untitled, please entitle it with the opening five words of the piece.

Judging is anonymous so the author's name must not appear anywhere on the manuscript.

All entries should include a cover letter with a short bio.

Valid order number should be included in Subject Line of email submission.

All entries should be saved as Microsoft Word (.doc / .docx) or PDF documents.

Short Story

Entries must be written in English.

Entries should be typed, double spaced, in plain, black, 12 point, Times New Roman font.

Entries must be no longer than 2,500 words. There is no minimum word count.

Each page should be numbered at the bottom of each page.

All pages must include a header with the title of the story only. If the entry is untitled, please entitle it with the opening five words of the piece.

Judging is anonymous so the author's name must not appear anywhere on the manuscript.

All entries should include a cover letter with a short bio.

Valid order number should be included in Subject Line of email submission.

All entries should be saved as Microsoft Word (.doc / .docx) or PDF documents.

Postal Submissions

Postal submissions should comply with the above guidelines, but include a separate sheet of paper on which contact details, including name of entrant, email address or in the case of an entrant having no online access, a self addressed, stamped envelope.

Postal submissions should be sent to,

Mairtín Crawford Award
The Crescent Arts Centre
2-4 University Street
Belfast
County Antrim
BT71NH

Amendments

Once an entry has been made, no correspondence regarding the making of amendments to an entry will be entered into. If an entrant wishes to amend an entry, a separate paid entry must be made and the words “Amended Final Version” marked clearly on the cover page.

FAQs

My story / poetry has been published in my writing group’s newsletter/website or on my personal blog. Can I still submit to the competition?

Yes! The only stipulation on entries is that the writer themselves must not have a full collection published.

I have had a pamphlet published by a publisher. Can I still submit to the competition.

Yes!

I have made changes to my story / poems since submitting my entry to the competition. Can I send a replacement story?

Unfortunately, no. if you would like your revised story / poetry to be considered, you can enter it again with the relevant fee and the document clearly marked with the word “Ammended Final Version” on the first page.

How should I lay out my cover sheet?

Make sure you include your name, and pseudonym if applicable, email address and phone number (area and country codes included), and a short, (optional) bio.

How to I pay the submission fee?

Payment is made through the website, by phone or in person at the Crescent Arts Centre. Once a fee has been paid, an email confirming the payment will be sent to your email along with an order number. This order number should be included with the submission, as proof of purchase.

I didn't receive my confirmation email / order number. What should I do?

It's possible the confirmation email was sent to you, but was recognised as junk or spam. If, after checking your junk or spam folder, and in the event that no email has been received, it is most likely that the email address you supplied was incorrect. In this event, contact the Crescent Arts Centre by phone on 02890242338 or by email at info@crescentarts.org and a member of the staff will be able to supply you with your order number and/or amend your email contact.