

Singapore Literature Prize 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Singapore Literature Prize?

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize, with more than 80 past winners. The prize is a biennial competition open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents whose works of fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction have been published in Singapore or abroad during a specified period of time. The work can be published in any of Singapore's four official languages — Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil. The award carries a top prize of S\$10,000 for the winner in each of the categories (See Q3). In addition, the winners will be awarded with a specially commissioned plaque.

1. Who can submit entries?

The competition is open to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents who are at least 18 years of age by 31 December 2018.

2. What languages are eligible?

Works submitted must be written in one of the four official languages: Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

3. What are the categories?

The 12 categories are

- Creative nonfiction (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Fiction (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Poetry (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)

4. Which year of publications are eligible?

The works must be published between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2019, in Singapore or abroad in a physical book format.

5. How do I submit?

There are two ways. You can either **submit online** or **submit offline**. Make sure you read the guidelines properly to avoid your submission from being incomplete and disqualified. All entries **MUST** be accompanied by four (4) physical copies of your book.

6. I have a book about travel / cooking / stories of triumph. Am I eligible to submit?

For the purpose of the award, we define creative nonfiction as writing that uses literary devices to create a narrative text about real events, people, or ideas. Examples in this genre include, but not limited to, literary criticism, biographies, food writing, literary journalism, memoirs, personal essays and travel writing. This genre does not include cookbooks, self-help manuals, travel guides, or textbooks. The work should be accessible to the general reading public and cannot be intended for a specialised or academic readership.

7. I have a book of poetry / fiction / creative nonfiction that my publisher sells under the YA and children's market. Can I submit?

No. Books intended for children and YA should instead be submitted to the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Awards.

8. My friends and I wrote this book together. Can we submit?

Anthologies of short stories, poetry, or essays by multiple authors are ineligible for this award.

9. I'm a translator, can I submit?

Yes. Entries can be submitted by the author, the publisher, or the translator.

10. Is there a separate category for translations?

We understand that literary translation is a different creative proposition. However, currently we do not have a separate category for translations due to many constraints. For SLP 2020, the translated works can be submitted in the various language categories. We are working towards a category for translations and hope to include it in future editions of SLP.

11. My book isn't out yet but the publisher has OK'd printing. Can I submit a manuscript first and the book later?

Only published works will be accepted. To be eligible, works must be published in a physical book format and available for general commercial release within the stipulated time frame (see Q4).

12. My book is out on e-platforms / available only as an audio book. Can I submit it?

No. E-books and audio books will not be considered for the award at this point.

13. I've compiled my past works into a book that just came out. Can I submit it?

Yes. Collections of short stories, poetry, or essays in newspapers, magazines, or online previously published are eligible, as long as the book is published within the stipulated time frame (see Q4).

14. My book came out just a few years ago and I've updated a few chapters in its latest edition this year. Is the book eligible?

No. Reprints, updated editions and reissues from previous years are not eligible.

15. I've translated a past SLP-winning title and the book came out this year. Is it eligible?

Yes. Past SLP-winning titles translated from one language to another official language are eligible to enter SLP 2020, provided they have been published within the stipulated time frame (see Q4). We are working towards separate categories for translations in future iterations of the award (see Q10).

16. Can I submit more than one entry?

Yes. An applicant may submit more than one work for the competition provided that the works are different and not variations of the same work. Each entry must be accompanied by four (4) physical copies of the book and should reach the SBC Office by **31 January 2020, 5.00pm**.

17. I have a few books that are stronger together as a series. Can I submit that?

No. A series of related works taken as one work is not eligible. The same work should also not be submitted in more than one language in the same award period.

18. I'm self-published. Am I eligible?

Yes, you are eligible to submit as long as you fulfil all the abovementioned criteria.

19. Who decides who wins?

There will be a panel of three judges for each category. The decision of the judges is final and binding. No correspondence in relation to the judges' decision will be entertained.

20. When will the shortlist be announced?

The shortlisted titles for SLP 2020 will be announced by end-July 2020.

21. I've been shortlisted, but I don't want to attend the awards ceremony and be disappointed that I didn't win. Can you just tell me the results beforehand?

No. Winners will NOT be notified before the awards ceremony. All shortlisted authors will be invited to attend. If shortlisted authors cannot attend for any reason, they should nominate a representative to attend on their behalf, and accept the award should their work win. The winners will only be announced at an awards ceremony in early September 2020.

22. I've won SLP 2020. Now what?

Both shortlisted and winning authors will be invited to conduct public talks, workshops, and/or writing mentorship programmes. You will also be asked to speak to the media and attend media engagements, and support the Singapore Book Council in all SLP-related marketing and publicity.

23. My question is not answerable by any of your FAQs. Who do I reach out to?

You can check out the SLP 2020 guidelines. For enquiries and other questions, please email programmes@bookcouncil.sg or call 63425119.