



## Novel Fair 2021

### About

The Novel Fair is an initiative by the **Irish Writers Centre** launched in 2011, with the first Fair taking place in 2012. Described by **The Irish Times** as '*A Dragons' Den for writers*', the Fair introduces up-and-coming writers to top publishers and literary agents, giving novelists the opportunity to bypass the slush pile, pitch their ideas and place their synopsis and sample chapters directly into the hands of publishers and agents.

Novel Fair has been attended by representatives from: **Pan McMillan, Penguin Random House, Harper Collins, John Murray, Hachette, Lilliput Press, New Island Books** and many others.

### The Prizes

Twelve shortlisted entrants will be anonymously selected by a judging panel to take part in the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair on Friday **12 February 2021**. Each writer will have a stand at the Fair where they will present the synopsis of their novel, the finished novel itself and biographical material. Leading publishers and agents will be invited to the Irish Writers Centre to meet these writers in person.

To fully prepare them for the day, the winners also receive a place on a seminar on 'How to Pitch Your Novel', two weeks in advance of the Fair. Applicants who are longlisted and who do not proceed to make the shortlist of twelve will have their work evaluated and critiqued by the judging panel.

### Entry Details

The entry fee is €55 and the closing date for entries is Friday 25 September, 2020. Novel Fair is open to novels of all genres. Memoirs, short stories and works of non-fiction will not be accepted. The writer must not have published a novel before i.e. has not previously published a novel with an ISBN. To enter, you will need to send a synopsis and up to 10,000 words of a novel.

Before you submit your work, you should familiarise yourself with the Terms and Conditions below. If you meet all the conditions you should fill out the entry form and submit your manuscript through Submittable.



## Terms & Conditions

### Eligibility

- The competition is limited to unpublished novelists who have not signed with any agents or publishers. Applicants who have already had a novel accepted by a publisher, or have previously had a novel published, will not be eligible.
- A published novel is defined as one that has an ISBN.
- If the applicant has a self-published Novel with an ISBN then all of the following conditions will apply which the applicant must be able to provide evidence of upon application:
  - the work submitted to the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair cannot be the published piece of fiction (i.e. the Irish Centre Novel Fair will only accept new, original work)
  - the applicant can have a maximum of one published piece of fiction
  - The published work must not have sold more than 1,000 copies through any medium (i.e. print or e-book)
  - In the process of publication the applicant cannot have successfully engaged with or had access to a professional publisher, distributor or editor
  - the published work cannot have been reviewed professionally (i.e. by any recognised print or broadcast media, or online review)
- Writers who attend the Fair and subsequently sign with an agent or publisher must acknowledge the Irish Writers Centre in promotional material relating to the acquisition of the book.
- Applicants who are signed by agents or publishers before the Novel Fair has taken place are required to notify the Irish Writers Centre immediately.
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age.

### Application Process



- Applicants are required to send a synopsis of a max. of 300 words and up to five chapters of their novel, which should be approx 10,000 words (+/- 10%). There is a limit of one entry per applicant.
- Entries are welcome from anywhere in the world, however, in order to be eligible, applicants need to commit to participating in the whole day of the Fair on Friday 12 February 2021.
- Entries must be in English.
- The completed novel, if shortlisted, should be a minimum of 50,000 words.
- The complete manuscript must be emailed to the IWC within 5 working days of notification of being shortlisted.
- There is a limit of one entry per applicant per annum. Please pay careful attention to the checklist as you will be ineligible to re-enter until the following year if the submission is incorrect.
- The applicant's name must not appear anywhere on the synopsis or manuscript. It should appear only on the entry form.
- Entry fee for applications is €55 and is non-refundable. Entry fee for IWC members is €45. Members please contact [novelfair@writerscentre.ie](mailto:novelfair@writerscentre.ie) to avail of discount.
- Successful applicants on the shortlist will be contacted by the Centre by Friday 4 December. Those who were not selected will be informed on the week of the 14 December 2020.
- Only shortlisted applicants will be asked for proof of their completed manuscript. At this point, writers will be required to sign a declaration that they have not been signed by a publisher or agent and that they comply with all criteria listed in this document.
- We can only enter into a limited correspondence with Novel Fair entrants. For urgent queries that cannot be answered from the [FAQs](#) information on our website, please email [novelfair@writerscentre.ie](mailto:novelfair@writerscentre.ie)