

Irish Writers Centre

NOVEL FAIR 2020

Terms & Conditions

Following the great interest and success of the Novel Fair over the past eight years, we are happy to announce the launch of the 9th Novel Fair.

About

The Novel Fair is an initiative by the Irish Writers Centre launched in 2011. 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.

The 2019 Fair was attended by representatives from: The Book Bureau, Blake Friedman Agency, Epogue Press, The Feldstein Agency, Green & Heaton, Harper Collins Ireland, John Murray, Lilliput Press, Lisa Richards Agency, Marianne Gunn O'Connor Literary Agency, Mulcahy Associates, New Island Books, Penguin Ireland, Susanna Lea Associates and Transworld/Doubleday Ireland.

The Prizes

Twelve shortlisted entrants will be anonymously selected by a judging panel to take part in the Irish Writers Centre Novel Fair on **14 February, 2020**. 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 (**31 January, 2020**).

This year we are extending the prize to those who make the longlist. 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 **€50 (€40 for members)** and can be paid by PayPal, cheque, postal order, credit or debit card or cash (paid in person) at the Irish Writers Centre.
- The closing date for entries is **Friday 27 September, 2019**.
- There is no limitation on style, genre, or target market, the only requirement being that the writer has not 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 overleaf. If you meet all the conditions you should send us **two copies** of your **sample work** along with **three copies** of a **synopsis** and an **entry form** which is available from www.irishwriterscentre.ie

Best of luck!

From all at the Irish Writers Centre

THE IRISH TIMES

Irish
Writers
Centre

Áras
Scribhneoirí
na hÉireann

Novel Fair 2020

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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 work of fiction 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%).

- Please send two copies of the manuscript and three copies of the synopsis. One copy of the synopsis should be attached to the application form which can be downloaded from our site, the other two should be attached to the copies of your manuscript.

- Entries must be accompanied by an application form.

- There is a limit of one entry per applicant.

- Entries are welcome from anywhere in the world, however, in order to be eligible, applicants must be available to attend the whole day of the Fair on **Friday 14 February 2020**.

- Entries must be in English.

- The completed novel, if shortlisted, should be a minimum of 50,000 words.

- All material should be double spaced in size twelve Times New Roman font. Pages should be numbered and include the final word count of the submitted chapters.

- Material should be bound or stapled together. Bulldog clips are accepted but paperclips are not.

- The applicant's name must not appear anywhere on the synopsis or manuscript. It should appear only on the entry form.

- Notification of receipt of entry will be sent by email from novelfair@writerscentre.ie. Please allow 28 days for confirmation of application.

- Entry fee for applications is €50 for non-members and €40 for IWC members and is non-refundable. This can be paid by PayPal, cheque, or postal order – or by calling in person to the Irish Writers Centre with cash, credit or debit card. If paying by PayPal, please attach a printed copy of your PayPal receipt.

- Email submissions will not be accepted.

- All submissions should be posted or hand-delivered to: Novel Fair Competition, Irish Writers Centre, 19 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, Ireland.

- The Centre will not return manuscripts entered.

- Hand-delivered submissions must be received no later than **5pm on Friday 27 September, 2019**. Entries received after this date will not be accepted. Entries submitted by post that are postmarked with dates up to and including 27 September, 2019 will be accepted for consideration. Entries postmarked after this date will not be accepted.

- Successful applicants on the shortlist will be contacted by the Centre by **Friday 6 December, 2019** at which time they will have 5 days to submit the entire novel and must be able to attend the Fair in person. Those who were not selected will be informed on the week of the **9 December 2019**.

- 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.

- For any other queries, please email novelfair@writerscentre.ie

- See <http://irishwriterscentre.ie/> for FAQs and you can also download an application form from there.