

# The London Library Emerging Writers Programme 2025/26

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

The Programme, now in its seventh year, is a unique opportunity which offers writers, in all genres and disciplines, one year's free membership of The London Library and includes writing development masterclasses, networking opportunities, peer support, access to and guidance in using all the Library's resources and publication in the cohort anthology. With its rich cultural heritage, extensive open access book collection, dedicated writing spaces and diverse community of established writers, the benefits of Library membership are invaluable.

For over 180 years The London Library has played a central role in inspiring writers and researchers, helping them explore and develop their work. From Charles Dickens to Sarah Waters, Charles Darwin to Simon Schama, Virginia Woolf to Kazuo Ishiguro, Bram Stoker to Jessie Burton, T S Eliot to Raymond Antrobus, writers have found it to be an unrivalled resource.

The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is open to anyone over 18 years of age who is committed to pursuing a career in writing 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, and have a clear idea of how they might use the Library's resources to achieve that aim. They should be willing to fully participate in all elements of the Programme and immerse themselves in the writing community it offers. There is no application fee and participation on the Programme is funded.

The Programme runs from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. Successful applicants will be invited to a Programme launch on 2 July 2025. Sessions take place in the evenings (from 6.30-9pm) usually on the third Tuesday or Wednesday of the month and alternate between peer support meetings and masterclasses or workshops, all of which are designed to work across all or most forms of writing. The Programme will take place, as much as possible, at the Library, however some sessions may take place online. Some access or travel bursaries are available.

Applicants will be selected anonymously by a panel of judges, including writers and industry professionals from across all different forms of writing. You'll find more information on the judges [here](#), and all details are on the [Programme webpage](#).

**Applications close at 11am on Wednesday 26th February 2025.**

Please read through the following Application Guidelines (including eligibility requirements) carefully before you submit your application. Applications which do not follow the guidelines will not be considered. You can find a comprehensive set of [FAQs here](#). If you still have any questions regarding your application, please contact the Programme Team on 0207 766 4765 or [emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk](mailto:emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk).

We look forward to receiving your application and good luck!

[Apply online](#)\*

The 2025/26 The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is only possible because of the generous support the Library has received from Bloomsbury Publishing, The Charlotte Aitken Trust, the Garrick Charitable Trust, John & Kiendl Gordon, Sir Max Hastings, Hawthornden Foundation, The International Friends of The London Library, Gretchen & James Johnson, Simon Lorne, Robert MacLeod, the Julio and Maria Marta Nuñez Memorial Fund, Deborah Goodrich Royce, Sarah & Hank Slack and other anonymous donors.

\* If you are unable to access the form, please try a different network (3G or 4G) or switching off your web protect security setting.

## Application Guidelines

These guidelines and instructions will help you decide whether you are eligible for the Programme and explain how to correctly complete your application. Please read them carefully!

### Eligibility

1. The London Library Emerging Writers Programme is open to anyone aged 18 or over (as of 1 July 2025).
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, a poetry pamphlet 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;
  - 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/writing discipline.
  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, including peer support meetings, which take place at the Library. This will include a launch (2 July 2025), an end-of-Programme event (to be announced), and one event per month (usually the third Tuesday or Wednesday of the month). Bursaries are available to members of the cohort who need support to participate in the Programme - this may include travel costs, childcare or other access needs. This will be allocated on a case-by-case basis, based on proof of need.
  7. Applicants must be planning to work on a specific project or projects whilst on the Programme.
  8. Current London Library members are eligible to apply.
  9. Employees and trustees of The London Library and current or previous Emerging Writers Programme participants are not 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](mailto:emergingwriters@londonlibrary.co.uk).

## Submissions

- 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 (up to 250 words), why you are applying for the programme (up to 250 words), a very brief description of the project you intend to work on throughout the Programme (up to 250 words) and the genre of your project. This section of the form will be judged anonymously so please do not include your name or any specific identifying information (i.e. a web address, weblinks, the year you won a particular prize, titles of your work in the public domain, the character you play on TV etc).
  - An uploaded sample of your writing, up to 1000 words, from the same project or in the same genre. (If you are submitting poetry, you can send multiple poems as long as the entire document does not exceed the wordcount.)
  - An Equal Opportunities Form.
  - N.B. If you are unable to access the form, it may help to go through a different network (3G or 4G) or try switching off your web protect security setting.
- All writing samples must be uploaded as Word documents or PDFs in 12pt font size and 1.5 or double spaced. 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.
- Please make sure your name is not anywhere on your writing sample (including the filename) as your sample will be judged anonymously. Please check headers/footers and if you are using screenwriting software, please take care that your name is not automatically included anywhere in the text. If your name appears on your writing sample, your application will not be considered.
- Your writing sample must not exceed the word count of 1000 words. Any samples over the word count will not be considered and your application will be void.
- Please do not include CVs as these will be disregarded.
- You will be able to save your application and resume another time but, once submitted, your application cannot be altered.
- We will only accept one application per person.
- Applications must be received by 11am on Wednesday 26 February 2025. You will not be able to submit applications after the deadline.
- You will be sent an immediate automated email confirmation to say that we have received your application.
- All work will be treated confidentially and, if not selected, will be destroyed after the application process.
- Successful applicants will be contacted by 6 June 2025. Unsuccessful candidates will be contacted by 13 June 2025.
- Incomplete applications or applications which do not comply with the above guidelines will not be eligible.
- We strongly recommend that you do not leave your application to the very last minute. Sometimes the system can rebel against too many people trying to send applications simultaneously (usually a few hours before applications close) and your application may not go through.

## 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 including writers and industry professionals from across all different forms of writing.
5. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, circumstances, and any age upwards of 18.

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.

Two bursary funds are available to support members of the cohort who may face financial, health, or any other barriers that would prevent them fully accessing the Programme. The Emerging Writers Programme Access Bursary helps support those participants most in need and the Virago Participation Bursary has been generously funded by Virago Press to support Black women and Black writers from under-represented genders.