



Singapore Book Council Powering Our Imagination

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore Literature Prize 2026

Increase in Prize Money, Changes in categories



SINGAPORE, 8 April 2026 - The Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) 2026, organised by the Singapore Book Council, will introduce a number of changes this year after an internal review. These changes include an increase in prize money, revised category structure, and the introduction of an application fee. These changes are part of SBC's effort to ensure that the prize continues to be credible, competitive and sustainable amid rising operational costs and a challenging landscape.

SLP 2026 will be awarded for Prose and Poetry in the four languages of English, Chinese, Malay, and Tamil, for a total of 8 categories. The prize amount has been raised from \$3,000 to \$5,000, and a S\$20 application fee will also be introduced.

Increase in prize money

The increase in prize money reflects SBC's continued commitment to recognising the literary excellence of our writers and strengthening the prestige of the award. While the value of a work has never been pegged to prize money, we recognise the importance of monetary recognition.



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Prize categories: Prose and Poetry

The award's previous Fiction and Creative Nonfiction categories have been consolidated into a single Prose category. This reflects the increasingly fluid boundaries between forms, encourages experimentation, and supports writers working across hybrid and cross-genre literary writing.

SBC is also exploring the introduction of a longlist in future editions to recognise more writers.

Review of Submission cycle for Translation & Graphic Novel/Comics

The Translation and Comics/Graphic Novels categories were introduced in SLP 2024 to recognise and promote increasingly diverse genres of published works. Based on observations from the previous edition, SBC will review the cycle for both genres to ensure a competitive pool of entries per award cycle, and will release more details on the revised cycle in December 2026.

We will skip these categories for SLP 2026 while the review is conducted.

Application Fee

To support the administrative and judging costs of the prize while maintaining increased prize money, SBC will introduce a S\$20 application fee — the first in the award's history. Fee waivers will be available on a case-by-case basis to ensure accessibility.

Full details will be released with the call for submissions, which will be open on **Monday, 13 April 2026**. Eligible works must be published in the past two years from 2024 to 2025.

The shortlists will be announced in mid-October 2026, and the winners will be unveiled at the awards ceremony in early December 2026.



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Annex A: About the Singapore Literature Prize

Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize. 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.

More than 150 writers have won the prestigious SLP, one of the few multilingual literary awards in the world. The winners and awards ceremony of the last edition in 2024 can be found here: <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/slp-2024>.

Many notable Singaporean writers have won the SLP, including Amanda Lee Koe, Azhagunila, Farihan Bahron, Hartinah Ahmad, Inbha, Jeremy Tiang, Marylyn Tan, Sithuraj Ponraj, Sonny Liew, Suratman Markasan, Tan Chee Lay, Wang Gungwu, and the late Mohamed Latiff Mohamed and Yeng Pway Ngon.

SLP 2026 Award Categories

The 8 categories are:

- Prose (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)
- Poetry (Chinese, English, Malay, Tamil)

Call for Submissions will open on **Monday 13 April**.



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Annex B: About Singapore Book Council

Established in 1968, the Singapore Book Council (SBC) has for over 50 years remained committed to developing and promoting a multicultural literary arts sector in Singapore. Our programmes focus on creative writing, translation, storytelling, reading and illustration. Our festivals, awards, workshops and school programmes have reached out to the various language and ethnic communities, boosting creativity, imagination, and empathy. SBC is a nonprofit and charity with IPC status.

Vision: The power of words, connecting peoples and cultures.

Mission: To champion Singapore's role in enhancing multicultural literary arts.

Our programmes run year-round, reaching out to many audiences. They include the annual Asian Festival of Children's Content (AFCC), a premier festival for children's books; the prestigious biennial Singapore Literature Prize, the top literary prize in the country; the Singapore Translation Symposium, which promotes literary translation; SBC Campus and Little Campus, our school outreach programmes; as well as our training and mentorship programmes that support and nurture new talents.

SBC is chaired by Dr Tan Chee Lay, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies & Professional Learning, NIE, NTU.

We are a recipient of the National Arts Council of Singapore's Major Company Grant for the period from 2025 to 2027. For more information, please visit <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/>