



Singapore Book Council  
Powering Our Imagination

## SINGAPORE LITERATURE PRIZE 2026

### RULES & REGULATIONS



Established in 1992, the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is Singapore's top literary prize that has been awarded to more than 170 past writers. The prize is a biennial competition open to Singapore citizens and permanent residents whose works of prose and poetry have been published in Singapore or abroad during a specified period of time. SLP is one of the few multilingual literary awards in the world.

The prize carries a top prize of S\$5,000 for the winner in each of the award categories. In addition, the winners will be given a specially commissioned trophy.

#### 1. Award category

(a) This award is open to any work of prose or poetry created by a Singapore citizen or permanent resident. The books must be published between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025. All books should be published in Singapore or abroad in a physical book format.



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(b) SLP does not accept works intended for children.

(c) The 8 categories are:

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

(d) Entries may be on any subject or theme.

(e) The Prose category includes works of both fiction and creative nonfiction. Fiction refers to narrative prose, which includes short stories and novels. Creative nonfiction refers to writing that uses literary devices to create a narrative text about real events, people, or ideas. Examples in this genre include, but are not limited to, literary criticism, biographies, memoirs, personal essays and travel writing. We do not accept cookbooks, self-help manuals, travel guides, academic studies, business books, commentaries or textbooks. The work should be accessible to the general reading public and not intended for a specialised or academic readership. Young Adult (YA) works are eligible for submission for SLP 2026.

(f) Poetry refers to works of verse.

## **2. Language**

(a) For Prose and Poetry categories, works can be published in any of Singapore's four official languages - Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

## **3. Eligibility**

(a) The competition is open to all Singapore citizens and permanent residents who are at least 18 years of age at the point of application.

(b) Each entry must be an original work.

(c) The work must be published between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025.

(d) Anthologies of short stories, poetry, or essays by multiple authors (more than two [2]) are not eligible for this award.



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- (e) Only published works are eligible. To be eligible, works must be published in a physical book format and available for general commercial release within the stipulated time frame (see point 3c). E-books and audiobooks (that are not published in physical formats) will not be considered for the prize at this point.
- (f) Collections of short stories, poetry, or essays previously published in newspapers, magazines, or online are eligible, as long as the book is published within the stipulated time frame (see point 3c).
- (g) Chapbooks, pamphlets, booklets, zines, and other short-form or non-standard publications are not eligible. All submissions should be full-length published works that meet the criteria for their respective categories.
- (h) Reprints, updated editions or reissues from previous years are not eligible.
- (i) The “best of” collections or anthology of works that have been previously published in book form are not eligible. However, if at least 80% of the works included in the collection are published for the first time in book form, then the book is eligible for SLP.
- (j) The Translation category will not be included in SLP 2026 while we review the submission cycle. English translations should be submitted in the next eligible edition of the Singapore Literature Prize when the Translation category is open. Past SLP-winning titles translated from Chinese, Malay, or Tamil into English may also be submitted when the Translation category is next awarded, subject to eligibility requirements.
- (k) The Comic/Graphic Novel category will not be included in SLP 2026 while we review the submission cycle. Any comics or graphic novels should be submitted in the next eligible edition of the Singapore Literature Prize when the Comics/Graphic Novel category is open.



#### **4. Submission of works**

- (a) An entrant may submit more than one work for the competition provided that the works are different and not variations of the same work.
- (b) A series of related works taken as one is not eligible.
- (c) The same publication is not allowed for submission to multiple language categories in the same award period.
- (d) Works can be submitted either by the author, the publisher, the agent, or a member of the writer's team.

#### **5. Judging**

- (a) There will be a panel of three judges for each category, comprising a Chief Judge and two fellow judges.
- (b) The decision of the judges is final and binding. No correspondence in relation to the judges' decision will be entertained.

#### **6. Closing Date**

- (a) The deadline for submission is **15 May 2026 (Friday), 6.00pm SGT.**
- (b) Each complete submission must be accompanied by one (1) digital copy and four (4) physical copies that have to be delivered to the SBC office by the deadline.
- (c) A \$20 submission fee per book will be collected upon submission of the online form.
- (d) Late or incomplete submissions will be disqualified.



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### **7. The Award**

- (a) The Singapore Literature Prize carries a top prize of S\$5,000 for the winner in each of the eight (8) categories. In addition, the winners will be given a specially commissioned trophy.
- (b) The judges shall only award one winner per category for the competition. If none of the works submitted merit the award, the judges shall not declare any winner.

### **8. Shortlist**

- (a) The Organiser will announce a shortlist of the works considered for the Singapore Literature Prize by mid-October 2026.
- (b) Only shortlisted writers will be notified.

### **9. Announcement of Winners**

- (a) The Singapore Literature Prize 2026 Awards Ceremony will be held in early December 2026.
- (b) The respective winners will be announced at the awards ceremony.
- (c) 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.
- (d) No correspondence regarding the winning entries will be entertained prior to the awards ceremony.

### **10. Outreach and publicity**

- (a) Shortlisted and winning authors will be invited to conduct public talks, workshops, and/or writing mentorship programmes where applicable.



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- (b) Shortlisted and winning authors will be asked to speak to the media and attend media engagements, and to support the Book Council in all SLP-related marketing and publicity where applicable.
- (c) The submitted photos of the author and book cover may be used to promote the work.

### **11. Submission**

- (a) All applications have to be submitted online. Please visit: <https://www.bookcouncil.sg/awards/slp-2026>.
- (b) All entries MUST be accompanied by four (4) physical copies and one (1) digital copy (in PDF format) of your book. For the judges' convenience, please upload a book file WITHOUT watermarks. Each book file will be kept confidential between the Book Council team and the awards judges. Each complete submission must be accompanied by four (4) physical copies of the book that have to be delivered to the SBC office by the deadline (see point 6). Late or incomplete submissions will be disqualified.
- (c) Applicants will receive a confirmation email upon submission of the online entry form. Please print out the confirmation email and include it with the four (4) physical copies of the book.
- (d) For the online application, please prepare the following Information:
  - (1) Personal contact information required for the application
  - (2) A short biography of the author (biographies should be max 80 words; in both English and CMT\* where applicable) and their details, including social media handles
  - (3) A photograph of the author (in JPG; at least 300dpi at 1MB, and preferably features only the author on a white or neutral background with nothing in their hands)



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- (4) An image of the book cover (in JPG; at least 300dpi at 1MB)
- (5) A short description or blurb of the book (max 150 words)
- (6) Publication details (ISBN and publisher contact details)
- (7) Digital copy of the publication without watermarks
- (8) A submission fee of S\$20 per book

*\*Chinese, Malay or Tamil for the various mother tongue categories.*

(e) Entries not accompanied by physical copy submissions of the book will be considered incomplete and disqualified from judging.

(f) The deadline for submission is **15 May 2026 (Friday), 6.00 pm (SGT).**

(g) For the delivery of books, the SBC office will be open on the following days and times to accept the books. Please arrange delivery accordingly.

- Monday – Friday, 10.00am to 6.00pm (excluding public holidays).

(h) Our address is:

Singapore Book Council  
Goodman Arts Centre Blk E #03-32  
90 Goodman Road Singapore 439053  
ATTN: SLP 2026  
(Please note that there is no lift access)

## **12. Books Submitted**

(a) The organisers shall not be held responsible for any entries that have been lost or damaged in transit.

(b) Books submitted for SLP will be retained by the Book Council and will not be returned.



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### 13. Important Dates

15 May 2026, 6.00pm	Submission closes
Mid-October 2026	Announcement of shortlisted works and writers
Early December 2026	SLP 2026 Awards Ceremony. Date, time and venue to be confirmed

### 14. Contact information

For any enquiry, please email [programmes@bookcouncil.sg](mailto:programmes@bookcouncil.sg).