

Literature Works – Eligibility guidelines for inclusion in the South West Writers’ Academy February 2020

All forms submitted to our site for inclusion in the South West Writers’ Academy showcase of writing excellence are reviewed according to the following criteria. We may also ask to see a copy of your publishing contract, if you have one, or an example of your work. Literature Works has the right to turn down any applicant based on quality of work.

Traditionally published writers (including poets)

- You must live and work in the South West of England. If you live in South West England for part of the year, please outline your connection to the region in your application.
- You must be a practising, published creative writer of fiction, poetry, or literary narrative non-fiction. Narrative non-fiction is a form of writing that is stylistically similar to fiction but used to tell factual stories, e.g. memoir, literary criticism, travel writing and biography. This does not include textbooks, guidebooks, standard non-fiction history books or collections of humour/jokes.
- Writers should have at least one book in print that has been published, marketed and sold to a reputable standard (e.g. made widely available in South West bookshops) within the last ten years.
- Printed books that are sold online only/through mail order only are not eligible. Print-on-demand titles are not eligible
- Poets with at least three chapbooks or pamphlets in print (excluding self-published) may be eligible.

Playwrights

Playwrights who can demonstrate significant experience working at a professional level are eligible. This experience will include:

- You must live and work in the South West of England. If you live in South West England for part of the year, please outline your connection to the region in your application.
- Playwrights who have had at least one professional production of their work of ten performances or longer produced in the last ten years can apply. This means that the company who produced your play is legally constituted, or a contract (or equivalent) was in place or you received public funding, a commission or a fee for your work
- Playwrights who have had at least two professional productions of their works with more than four professional performances in the last ten years
- Playwrights who can demonstrate a strong track record of related work and awards, including professional productions of their work, public readings, running professional courses, commissions, bursaries, publications or residencies may be eligible.

Definitions:

Professional - a company, venue or organisation which pays ITC/Equity/Writers' Guild of Great Britain rates to all creatives and cast

Full production - a complete show with a fully realised design

Full-length play - at least 40 pages or a running time of 60 minutes

Reading or sharing - when a script is read aloud or otherwise performed, but without the design or direction of a full production, often after just a short period of rehearsals.

Writers for screen and radio

Writers working in film, television, children's television and radio can apply. You must be able to demonstrate significant experience working at a professional level to be accepted onto the database. This will include at least one of the following:

- You must live and work in the South West of England. If you live in South West England for part of the year, please outline your connection to the region in your application.
- A feature film script that has been commissioned and produced by a third-party producer or production company, and was released theatrically in the UK;
- A drama or professionally produced radio play/piece that has been commissioned and broadcast on TV, radio or through a reputable third-party streaming service (e.g. BBC, Netflix);
- An extensive record of professionally produced short films that have screened in competition at a range of internationally recognised film festivals (see [BAFTA recognised festivals list](#));
- A minimum of 2 years working on professional productions in a post that creates, commissions or guides the content of film, television or radio productions such as screenwriter, story liner, story editor, development executive or creative producer.

Credits should include work that has been marketed and distributed in the UK to a reputable standard but may also include work distributed internationally. If your application only contains work that has been optioned or is still in development but has not yet been produced, we may ask you to provide a reference from the production company.

Performance poets, spoken word artists, storytellers

Performance poets and spoken word artists who live and work in the South West of England and can demonstrate a regular record of professional performance over a period of at least two years are eligible.

Traditional or contemporary storytellers who can demonstrate a regular record of professional performance over a period of at least two years are eligible.

Writers (including poets) who have been widely published in literary magazines, journals or anthologies

Writers who live and work in the South West of England and have six separate pieces published in the last 12 months in a range of established literary magazines, journals or anthologies can apply. Your application will be accepted at the discretion of Literature Works. Academic publishing credits and online publishing are not included.

For literary magazines, journals and periodicals, please make sure your listed publications are:

- Published regularly (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly)
- Produced to a professional standard
- In circulation for at least 12 months
- Have an ISBN or ISSN number
- Distributed in South West England
- Not self-published

For anthologies, please make sure your listed publications are:

- In print and published within the last ten years
- Published, marketed and sold to a reputable standard (e.g. widely available in bookshops in South West England).
- Printed books that are sold online only/through mail order only are not eligible. Print-on-demand titles are not eligible.
- Pamphlets published, marketed and sold to a reputable standard can be included as a publication. Please note: self-published pamphlets are not eligible.

Writer-facilitators and tutors

Some writers have achieved particular recognition for facilitating writing workshops or teaching creative writing. We consider the eligibility of such candidates on a case by case basis, looking at the record of workshops, the context in which they are delivered and the quality of the teaching and content. We also require references from at least two recognised course delivery bodies.

Self-published writers (including poets)

We encourage self-published writers to join the Writers' Register and take advantage of the writer development opportunities it offers. However, we recognise that, occasionally, self-published works achieve significant sales and critical recognition for their excellence. We will consider self-published works for the Writers' Academy in these exceptional circumstances.

The definition of a self-published writer is someone who publishes or financially contributes to the publication of their own work (in part or in full). This includes:

- Online and digital publishing
- Those who have paid for or contributed to payment of having their work published
- Those who own or direct publishing companies
- Publishing co-operatives and crowd funding platforms where the writer makes a financial contribution to publication, to the company or to the donations platform.

To be considered for inclusion you must have self-published or have had a work published on a print-on-demand/ebook only basis that has sold over 300 copies of a single title in print form or 500 copies in ebook form within a 12-month period (as per the Society of Authors eligibility:

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/eligibility>).

If the work submitted meets the above criteria, we then assess Writers' Academy applications from self-published writers on a case by case basis. This is what we assess –

- Whether the work has sold a minimum 300 copies of a single title in print form or 500 copies in ebook form within a 12-month period (as per the Society of Authors eligibility: <http://www.societyofauthors.org/eligibility>)
- Whether the books submitted as evidence of self-published work are equivalent to industry standard based on the following: production values, editorial values, illustration quality (if applicable) and quality of content.
- Our decision is final. If unsuccessful, you cannot re-submit the same piece of work in future. You can submit new work or work that has been significantly altered. You can only submit under the self-published category three times but you can apply under a different category if you become eligible in another way.

Points-based review system

In cases where a writer's eligibility for inclusion in the South West Writers' Academy is unclear, Literature Works will review their output and publishing history as a whole, using a points system. Please note that our decision is final.

SOUTH WEST WRITERS' ACADEMY DISCLAIMER: WRITERS

Inclusion in the Writers' Academy does not constitute a recommendation of any kind. You may be required to provide professional references and supporting information about your experience of events and project work to any outside party who contacts you as a result of your listing. You may be asked to complete appropriate disclosure checks before undertaking work with young people or vulnerable adults. Inclusion on our listing does not constitute a contract of any kind with Literature Works and Literature Works accepts no responsibility for any outcome pertaining to inclusion on our listing.

USE OF OUR SOUTH WEST WRITERS COMMUNITY BY ANY PARTY: DISCLAIMER

The South West Writers' community is for information purposes only. Literature Works accepts no responsibility for any outcome of any communication, contract or other engagement with any writer featured on this list, and inclusion of a writer in the list does not constitute a recommendation by Literature Works or a contract with the writer of any kind. Any individual or organisation is wholly responsible for all legal, health and safety, safeguarding and all other legal responsibilities that are necessary for any interaction or activity or engagement of any kind with any writer on this list.