

Mslexia Fiction Competition 2021

'Is this my life, or my neighbour's conflated with mine, or a life I have dreamed and prayed for; is this my essence, twisting into a taper's flame, or have I slipped the limits of myself – slipped into eternity like honey from a spoon?' Hilary Mantel, *The Mirror and the Light*, 2020

Your passport to publication

Novel winners and shortlisted finalists go on to be published at the highest level – visit mslexia.co.uk/submit-your-work/reader-success-stories/ for recent achievements

Winners and three Short Story and Flash Fiction finalists will be published in *Mslexia* magazine

24 Short Story and Flash Fiction finalists will be published in the inaugural Mslexia anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021*

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mslexia

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL CATEGORIES: 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

NOVEL

For novels of at least 50,000 words by women who are not yet published as novelists.

1st Prize: £5,000

Winner and three finalists also receive feedback from The Literary Consultancy plus pitch training and personal introductions to agents and editors at a Talent Party organised in partnership with New Writing North. Enter the first 5,000 words only. Longlisted authors will be asked to submit their whole manuscripts.

Entry fee: £25

JUDGES

HILARY MANTEL DBE

Multi-award-winning novelist, memoirist and short storywriter

MARIANNE TATEPO

Founder of the Black Agents and Editors group

JO UNWIN

Founder of Jo Unwin Literary Agency (JULA Ltd.)

SHORT STORY

For complete short fiction up to 3,000 words

1st Prize: £3,000, plus mentoring by a specialist literary agent

Three finalists receive £100

Winner and three finalists will be published in *Msllexia* magazine

Eight additional finalists, along with the four winners, will be published in *Msllexia*'s inaugural ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021*.

Entry fee £12

JUDGE

A L KENNEDY

Award-winning novelists and short story writer

FLASH FICTION

For complete short fiction up to 300 words

1st Prize: £500

Three finalists receive £50

Winner and three finalists will be published in *Msllexia* magazine

Eight additional finalists, along with the four winners, will be published in *Msllexia*'s inaugural ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021*.

Entry fee £6

JUDGE

JUDE HIGGINS

Director of Flash Fiction Festival UK

TERMS & CONDITIONS

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- ▶ Novel Competition: for novels of at least 50,000 words in any genre for adult and young adult readers.
- ▶ Short Story Competition: for complete fiction texts of up to 3,000 words.
- ▶ Flash Fiction Competition: for complete fiction texts of up to 300 words.

ALL ENTRIES

- ▶ Please submit your work typed, double-spaced, on A4 pages, single sided, with pages numbered.
- ▶ Your entry will be judged anonymously, so do not put your name on the text pages of your entry.
- ▶ If entering by post, please print out and complete the submission form on our website (mslexia.co.uk/competitions).
- ▶ No alterations may be made to your entry once it has been submitted.
- ▶ Your entry will not be returned, so do keep a copy. If you require confirmation of receipt of a postal entry, enclose an SAE labelled 'Acknowledgement'.
- ▶ No entrant will win more than one prize in any one competition.
- ▶ All entrants will be notified of the outcome of their entry via email. Notifications will be sent to Short Story and Flash Fiction entrants in November 2021; to Novel entrants in February 2022.
- ▶ The winners and finalists of the Novel Competition will be announced in the June 2022 edition of *Msllexia*.
- ▶ The winner and three finalists of the Short Story and Flash Fiction competitions will be published in the December 2021 edition of *Msllexia*.
- ▶ The full shortlist of 12 entrants for each of the Short Story and Flash Fiction competitions will be announced in *Msllexia* magazine and on the website and published in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021* on 1 December 2021.
- ▶ Copyright of any entry remains with the author, but *Msllexia* has the unrestricted right to publish the winning entries or extracts in its magazine and on its website, plus unrestricted rights to use the winning entries and any related material for PR purposes.

ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Entries should be in English (or English dialect) and should not have been published or accepted for publication in print or online by a third party.
- ▶ Entries that have won other competitions are not eligible.
- ▶ The Novel Competition is for unpublished novelists only. Women who have had a novel published by a mainstream or independent publisher, for any age group, in any country, are not eligible.
- ▶ Self-published manuscripts with sales of fewer than 500 copies are eligible.
- ▶ Entries should not be a translation of another author's work.
- ▶ We will accept entries from women of any nationality from any country.

- ▶ You do not have to subscribe to *Msllexia* to be eligible, but you do have to self-identify as a woman.
- ▶ Employees of *Msllexia* are not eligible.

HOW TO ENTER

- ▶ The competitions open for entries on 1 June 2021 and close at 23.59 GMT on 20 September 2021.
- ▶ You may enter online at mslexia.co.uk/competitions, or send your entry by post. If entering online, there are full instructions on the website.
- ▶ If entering by post, please print out and complete the submission form on our website (mslexia.co.uk/competitions), mark your envelope 'Msllexia Fiction Competition' and send it to: Msllexia Publications Ltd, PO Box 656, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1PZ.
- ▶ If entering by post, please pay by cheque (payable to Msllexia Publications Ltd.) or by debit/credit card (phone +44 (0)191 204 8860 with your details).
- ▶ You may enter as many competitions with as many submissions as you like, but you must enter each competition separately, accompanied by a separate fee.
- ▶ Entry fees must be in pounds sterling. For overseas entries, international online card payments are accepted.

PRIZE TERMS

NOVEL COMPETITION

- ▶ Manuscript feedback from The Literary Consultancy is optional. Practical arrangements should be agreed between the finalists and TLC.
- ▶ The pitch training is a day-long professional workshop in Newcastle upon Tyne. The personal introduction to agents and editors will take place at a Talent Party in central London. Both events are arranged in partnership with New Writing North. *Msllexia* will contribute a total of £100 towards each finalist's travel expenses.

- ▶ These additional prizes must be taken before 30 September 2022.

SHORT STORY COMPETITION

- ▶ The date of the mentoring session with the literary agent should be agreed between the competition winner and the agent but must take place before 30 September 2022.

- ▶ Payment for each of the eight additional shortlisted stories that will be published along with the four winners in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021* is £25.

FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

- ▶ Payment for each of the eight additional shortlisted flash fictions that will be published along with the four winners in the ebook anthology *Best Women's Short Fiction 2021* is £25.

The closing date for all three competition categories is **20 SEPTEMBER 2021**