

Appearing in *Mslexia* is one of the best ways onto the publishing ladder. Women writers are invited to submit material on one of our themes, which change every quarter (see below); or to send work on any subject for our many other submission slots. For regular updates to these guidelines, visit mslexia.co.uk/submit. If you have any questions, please email postbag@mslexia.co.uk, or call the office on **0191 204 8860**.

Competitions

MSLEXIA WOMEN'S FICTION AWARDS

The 2018 Awards are now closed.

Features

We also always welcome ideas for one-off features, and entries are considered on a rolling basis. Send us 200-word proposal, plus a brief CV and a published or unpublished example of your writing.

'For the love it'

This is a new series on the writing we do with no expectation of it being published. In Issue 77, Hayley Webster told us about writing bedtime stories for her daughter. Do you write plays for your local school? A memoir on behalf of your grandfather? If you would like to tell our readers about the writing you do for the love of it, let us know, with a 200-word pitch and a writing sample.

Showcase - themed writing

Twice annually we ask for themed poetry and prose submissions for the Showcase (previously New Writing) section of the magazine. Winners are selected by our Guest Editors (in the past these have included Julia Blackburn, Nicci Gerrard, Pascale Petit, Rachel Cusk and Sarah Dunant) and are published in the magazine.

ISSUE 82: CLOTHES

Send us stories and poems on the theme of clothes. Uniforms; costumes; the clothes maketh the woman; the clothes of the future versus the clothes of the past; why wearing clothes is the best; why not wearing clothes is even better; the material, the sewing; throwing away that favourite jacket... stitch together your best work and sent it to us.

Deadline: 11 March

ISSUE 83: JOURNEY

Send us stories and poems on the theme of 'journey'. Hard roads, long walks, holidays, moving home, migrating, running away, climbing mountains, diving deep, returning... carry us with you.

Deadline: 10 June

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Mslexia welcomes previously unpublished submissions from women writers for every part of the magazine. For more information including what we pay and up-to-date deadlines, plus competitions, workshops and *Mslexia* news visit mslexia.co.uk/submit, phone **0191 204 8860** or email postbag@mslexia.co.uk. Please note if submissions do not fit in with our current themes they cannot be considered for publication.

Send submissions to submissions@mslexia.co.uk or **Mslexia, PO Box 656, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1PZ**

For subscribers only

Flash challenge: theme 'shopping' A narrative nugget, in any prose style, on the theme of 'shopping'. Remember that it must tell a complete story - and don't forget to check Issue 81 for judge Meg Pokrass's shopping-related writing prompt! (Up to 300 words.)

Poetry challenge (subscribers only): *Ode*
A lyrical poem that glorifies or praises an event or individual - intellectually as well as emotionally. Odes are sincere, imaginative, and often quite elaborate in form. There is a classic three-part ode structure, but we are not limiting you to this. We only ask that your ode, on any subject, is no more than 40 lines long.

Limerick Challenge Limericks on any topic, to appear in the monthly *Mslexia* subscriber newsletter *little ms* (submission details can be found in *little ms*).

Flash Fiction 100-word piece inspired by an image in the *Mslexia* monthly newsletter *little ms*.

If you don't already receive our monthly e-newsletter little ms - packed full of writing inspiration and lively literary debate - all you have to do is subscribe to Mslexia. For more info visit mslexia.co.uk or call us 0191 204 8860.

Other submissions

N is for... A piece of creative nonfiction inspired by a single alphabet prompt (e.g. H is for Hawk)
Current letter: N. Max 300 words.

First page surgery Send us the title and first page of your novel (*any genre, up to 300 words*). Our guest industry expert will comment, in the magazine, about how might it be changed to catch an agent's or editor's eye. (Use a pen name if you're feeling shy.) [Unpaid.]

Bedtime stories A submission slot for short stories written to be read aloud to a child at bedtime. They can be on any subject, but no more than 300 words, please.

Poet Laureate Imagine you are the Poet Laureate, whose task it is to respond poetically to news items and/or issues of topical importance. The actual subject matter is up to you, though we encourage you to think outside the box - local news as well as world news. Your poem must be *no more than 14 lines long*, please, and ideally we'd also like a link to the topic/news item you have chosen.

Pitch perfect Send us a pitch (pithy description - *100 words max*) for a project you're planning to submit to an agent, editor or producer. The project might be a memoir, biography, fiction, theatre or screenplay. Our guest industry expert will suggest ways to make it spark the interest of the people you need to impress. (Use a pen name if you're feeling shy.) [Unpaid]

Life sentence One sentence only, please, and no more than 25 words, describing one interesting/poignant/bizarre/uplifting thing that's happened in your writing life recently. [Unpaid]

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Submitting your work

Please use the online submissions form where possible - but you can send all *other submissions* by post or by email, wherever you are in the world. If emailing, please put 'Hindsight', 'First page surgery', etc. in the subject line, as appropriate, and send to submissions@mslexia.co.uk. If you're submitting work to multiple topics, (e.g. life sentence and pitch perfect) please send each one in a separate email.

Deadline for possible inclusion in the June 2019 Issue (82): **8 April 2019**

Payment

We usually pay **£25** for each piece published in *Msllexia* (except for 'Life sentences'; or 'Pitch perfect' and 'First-page surgeries', where you'll receive feedback on your work).

Response times

We aim to email the writers whose work has been selected within three months of any submission deadline (this does not include competitions).

We do not return hard copies of your work, or send copies of competition results.

Please make sure you include your land address, telephone number and email address with your submissions so that we can process it.