



The Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize 2021

Eligibility and Entry Guidelines

1. The Prize

- a) A prize of £10,000 will be awarded to the author of the work that the judges consider to be the best eligible entry that evokes the spirit of a place. This may be a work of fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. The prize may not be divided or withheld.
- b) The judges will be responsible for compiling a shortlist of outstanding books. This will be announced in spring 2021 and the winner will be announced shortly thereafter.
- c) The prize is administered in all respects by the Royal Society of Literature.

2. Eligible Books

- a) The Prize is open any full-length work of fiction or non-fiction, or volume of poetry, which evokes the spirit of a place, and which is written by a citizen of the UK, Commonwealth or Republic of Ireland, or a writer who has been resident in the UK for three years.
- b) All entries must be published (in any format) for the first time in the UK or RoI within the calendar year 2020. Previous publication of the book outside of the UK does not disqualify it.
- c) The book must be a unified and substantial work. collections of short stories, novellas or children's books are not eligible.
- d) Books originally written in another language, and translated into English, are not eligible.
- e) Self-published books are not eligible.
- f) A book submitted on behalf of an author who was deceased at the date of publication will not be eligible for consideration.

3. Entry of Books

- a) Books may be entered only by trade publishers based in the UK or RoI.
- b) Each publisher, or imprint of a publisher, may enter one book only.
- c) Each publisher or imprint may also submit a list of up to two further fiction or non-fiction titles and may also submit an additional third title—which must be poetry—for the judges to call in. These should be accompanied by a justification of not more than 1,250 characters for each submission. **Please do not upload the call-in titles unless requested.** While the judges are not obliged to call in any of these titles, they are also at liberty to call in titles that have not been submitted.
- d) Only digital copies of books will be accepted this year due to the office closure. Please upload files when filling out the entry form [here](#), with no watermarks or crop marks, and ideally in epub, mobi and pdf format, no later than **Friday 4 December. Please do not send books to the office as it is currently closed.** Books must not be sent direct to the judges.

Please also complete an equal opportunities monitoring form for the author you are entering, the information on which will be treated in the strictest confidence and not linked to submissions. If entering on behalf of someone else, please check the responses for accuracy prior to submitting.