

WRITE IT FELLOWSHIP 2025 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When does the fellowship close?

Submissions will be accepted until 11.59 pm AEST, Monday 14 April 2025.

When will the shortlist be announced?

Shortlisted authors will be contacted On Monday 14 July 2025, and the shortlist will be announced publicly on Tuesday 15 July 2025. Shortlisted authors will have until 9 am AEST, Monday 18 August 2025 to submit their full manuscript.

When will the winners be announced?

The winners will be informed and subsequently their names will be announced to media and on PRHA social media during the week of 10 November 2025.

Can I enter more than one manuscript?

Entrants may only enter this fellowship once with one manuscript.

Can I enter a manuscript that was entered previously for the Write It fellowship?

No, you can't enter a manuscript previously submitted for the Write It program.

What genre can my manuscript be?

We accept all genres – fiction and non-fiction for both adult and young readers – except for poetry and cookbook manuscripts.

Can I enter if I am living overseas?

To be eligible for the prize, entrants need to be Australian permanent residents currently living in Australia.

Can I enter if I currently have a literary agent?

Only writers who are currently unagented are eligible for Write It.

What does the fellowship involve?

Each successful applicant will be mentored through a twelve-month period by a Penguin Random House Australia editor to develop their manuscript with the hope of publication. Additionally, as part of the fellowship, each of the successful applicants will receive a \$2000 writing grant and the opportunity to participate in a PRHA Open House Session during which they will learn about the various facets of publishing and what goes into acquiring, editing, marketing, publicising and selling a book.

I am an illustrator or photographer – can I apply?

We will only accept illustrative/photographic submissions if they accompany a picture book, graphic novel or non-fiction manuscript.

Can I disclose my manuscript to other publishers?

To be eligible for the fellowship, manuscripts cannot be published or be currently submitted to other publishing houses for publication or to literary agents for representation.

Can I enter a manuscript that I have self-published?

Self-published manuscripts are ineligible.

Can I apply for the fellowship if I have self-published a manuscript previously?

You can apply for the fellowship if your past publication experience is self-published, not trade published. However, you are unable to enter the self-published work for this fellowship.

What are my IP rights to my manuscript?

You would keep ownership of copyright in your manuscript. You would grant us a licence to share your manuscript within Penguin Random House Australia's judges so that we can run the fellowship. The applicant also agrees to grant Penguin Random House Australia a royalty-free licence to reproduce an extract of their work on our website in connection with the fellowship.

Do I have to publish my manuscript with Penguin Random House Australia?

If you are one of the fellowship winners, you would grant us the first option of publishing your work. You would agree to negotiate with us in good faith a publishing agreement on fair and reasonable market terms.

Will I receive any feedback on my submission?

Unfortunately, due to the number of entries to be processed, only successful applicants will be contacted.

For any more questions, you can email writeit@penguinrandomhouse.com.au.