

PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE WRITE IT FELLOWSHIP TERMS

This exciting fellowship aims to engage with new writing talent who have interesting and diverse stories to tell.

Launched by Penguin Random House Australia in 2018 to find writing and authors more representative of the society in which we live, Write It aspires to discover, nurture and develop unpublished voices across all genres (fiction and non-fiction for adult and young readers), focusing on writers from socio-economically marginalised backgrounds, LGBTQIA+, First Nations and CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) writers, and writers with a disability.

The successful applicants will be mentored by Penguin Random House Australia editors across twelve months, 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 various facets of publishing, including what goes into acquiring, editing, marketing, publicising and selling a book.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this fellowship, you must agree to the below Conditions with Penguin Random House Australia and, by 11.59 pm AEST, Monday 14 April 2025, complete the application form on the competition website and upload all necessary documents.

As part of the application form, you will need to provide the first 5000 words from a fiction or non-fiction manuscript, or a complete picture book manuscript, as well as a synopsis of the manuscript and a 250-word self-defined description about your background and why you consider your background to be underrepresented in the Australian book publishing industry.

If you are among the shortlist of applications, you will be invited to submit the entire manuscript.

CONDITIONS

1. Your application for the fellowship is deemed eligible with the acceptance of these Conditions.

Who can apply?

2. Applications are open to Australian Permanent Residents currently living in Australia, aged 18 years or over.
3. This opportunity is open to writers who come from backgrounds under-represented in the book publishing industry. This will be self-defined by the applicant as part of the application process and assessed by Penguin Random House Australia and any consultant engaged by Penguin Random House for this purpose. In particular, likely included will be writers from First Nations, CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) and LGBTQIA+ communities, writers who have a disability, and/or who come from a socio-economically marginalised community.
4. Applicants must not currently be represented by a literary agent.
5. Applicants must not have previously written a book that was published under a valid ISBN, excluding works that were published (i) as part of an anthology; (ii) by a not-for-

profit publisher; (iii) over ten years ago; (iv) in an entirely different genre to the materials they are currently working on; and/or (v) published in digital/e-book format only.

What are the conditions of applying?

6. Applications must be received by Penguin Random House Australia by 11.59 pm AEST, Monday 14 April 2025.
7. If requested by Penguin Random House Australia, the applicant must produce photo identification or other documents until Penguin Random House Australia is satisfied of the applicant's identity, age, residential address and eligibility to apply for the fellowship.
8. In relation to their manuscript, each applicant warrants that:
 - a) the work is an original literary work and no part of the work is created, or derived from works, using artificial intelligence technologies;
 - b) the applicant is the sole author of the work;
 - c) the applicant has not granted, transferred or assigned any of the rights, or interests in the rights, in the work to any third party;
 - d) no part of the work infringes any intellectual property right (including, without limitation, copyright, moral rights or trade mark) of any third party
 - e) the work has not been published, or currently under discussion with any other publisher, anywhere in the world;
 - f) no part of the work breaches any privacy or confidentiality obligations.
9. Each applicant grants Penguin Random House Australia a non-exclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable, world-wide right to use the copyright subsisting in any manuscript to assess applications.
10. Each applicant acknowledges and agrees that the applicant has read and understands Penguin Random House Australia's Privacy Policy.
11. Each applicant can submit only one manuscript for consideration.

How will the fellowships be awarded?

12. All applications will be assessed by a panel of staff at Penguin Random House Australia and a consultant engaged by Penguin Random House Australia for the purpose of judging applications between April and November 2025. Applicants will be assessed based on literary merit of a standard set by Penguin Random House Australia at its discretion.
13. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted on Tuesday 15 July 2025, when they will be invited to submit their full manuscript. Full manuscripts must be received by 9 am AEST, Monday 18 August 2025 to be eligible.
14. Penguin Random House may ask shortlisted applicants to participate in a conference call with panelists to discuss their application before a decision is made.
15. Penguin Random House Australia will award up to three fellowships from the shortlist of applicants. Penguin Random House Australia may elect not to award fellowships if the panel considers that no application has met the literary standard set by Penguin Random House Australia.
16. Each fellowship recipient will receive a \$2000 writing grant with half to be paid after acceptance of the mentorship and half in April 2026, following completion of the PRHA Open Day and two editorial meetings with the PRHA editor assigned to the applicant.

What does the fellowship involve?

17. Successful applicants will be invited to participate in a mentorship program with an assigned PRHA editor, which will consist of at least three phone, video call or email meetings about the progress of their manuscript over the course of approximately twelve months.
18. Successful applicants will also be invited to attend a Penguin Random House Open House Session to be held online in the first quarter of 2026 (date to be confirmed), where they will attend information sessions about the publishing process.
19. Fellowships will only be awarded following verification of applicant eligibility as required by Penguin Random House Australia.
20. In the event that the successful applicant accepts the fellowship:
 - a) the applicant grants Penguin Random House Australia the first option of publishing the work and, if the option is exercised, agrees to negotiate in good faith a publishing agreement on fair and reasonable market terms;
 - b) the applicant acknowledges that the mentoring opportunity is not a commitment to publish any works by the applicant and lasts for the duration of one year from the announcement of the fellowship's recipients;
 - c) the applicant agrees to participate in all reasonable promotional activities relating to the fellowship as requested by Penguin Random House Australia. As part of these activities, the applicant consents to Penguin Random House Australia using the applicant's name, likeness, image and/or voice for promotional activities for an unlimited period of time without further notification or remuneration; and
 - d) The applicant 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.
21. If the fellowship is not capable of being run as planned for any reason beyond the reasonable control of Penguin Random House Australia, Penguin Random House Australia reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this fellowship.
22. These Conditions are governed by the laws applicable in the State of Victoria. The applicant irrevocably submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Victoria.