

T. S. ELIOT PRIZE 2026



T. S. ELIOT PRIZE

RULES & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

A prize of £25,000 will be awarded to the best collection of new poetry in English first published in the UK or the Republic of Ireland in 2026 (1 January to 31 December 2026). All shortlisted poets receive a cheque for £1,500. Full information at tseliot.com/prize

RULES & ELIGIBILITY

- Submitted poetry collections must have been published in the UK or Republic of Ireland.
- First publication in the UK or the Republic of Ireland may include simultaneous publication (within a period of one year) in other countries.
- Poetry collections must be submitted by the publisher.
- Entries from individual poets of their own work will not be accepted. This includes self-published collections.
- A collection must be the work of one poet. Anthologies and volumes of collected or selected work will not be eligible.
- A posthumous collection will be eligible only if published within one year of the poet's death.
- A 'book' shall in this case be defined as having at least 48 pages of printed poems.
- At least 80 per cent of the poems in the collection must not have been published before in book form.
- Books which contain more than 30 per cent translations (or versions, imitations or any poetry inspired by the work of one or more other writers) will not be eligible. Percentages should be calculated on the total number of lines of poetry in a book.
- There is no limit on the number of titles that may be submitted, so long as each entry complies with Prize criteria.

SUBMISSIONS

- The deadline for submissions is **Friday 31 July 2026 at 17:00 BST**.
- Please submit your entry for the T. S. Eliot Prize via the T. S. Eliot Prize Zealous portal at zealous.co/tseliotprize/opportunity/T-S-Eliot-Prize-2026
- **4 copies of each submission** (published books or page proofs or manuscripts) must be sent to: Michael Sims, T. S. Eliot Prize 2026, 105 Farnan Avenue, London E17 4NH.
- Publishers should *also* upload PDFs if available via the T. S. Eliot Prize Zealous portal.
- Please direct any queries to michael.sims@tseliotprize.com

THE JUDGING

- There are three judges on the judging panel. The 2026 Prize judges are: Leontia Flynn (Chair), Ishion Hutchinson and Daisy Lafarge.
- Each judge will have one vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will have the casting vote.
- The final judging will take place and the Prize awarded in mid-January 2027.

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THE SHORTLIST

- A shortlist of books selected for the Prize will be announced in early October 2026.
- The Shortlist will comprise not more than ten books.
- Titles originally submitted as page proofs or manuscripts must also be provided as published books once shortlisted.

MARKETING & PROMOTION

- Publishers of shortlisted titles are asked to provide an additional 25 published copies for promotional purposes. This includes 10 sets which are awarded to the participants in the Young Critics Scheme run in conjunction with The Poetry Society's Young Poets Network.
- High-resolution cover JPEGs, poet's headshots and book PDFs must also be supplied.
- Between one and three poems from each of the shortlisted titles may be reproduced on press releases, the T. S. Eliot Prize website, in Readers' Notes and the Shortlist Readings programme, as well as on social media and in Prize newsletters for the purposes of marketing the relevant book, the Readings or the Prize itself.
- Shortlisted poets will be invited to record videos of their poems for the T. S. Eliot Prize YouTube channel and other media use (TV, radio, web etc) specifically related to the promotion of the Prize.