

WRITING _____

WA.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here is a list of frequently asked questions about Writing WA's new Emerging Writers Program.

Please note that most of the answers to these questions can also be found in the Application Form on the Writing WA website. The most important things to remember are to:

- Read the Eligibility Criteria carefully.
- Follow the instructions on the Application Form.
- Do not exceed any stated word or page limits.

When is the deadline?

2.00pm AWST 10 June 2024

What if I miss the deadline?

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. We have a short period during which to assess the applications, so we are strict about this. Please make sure you give yourself enough time to get your submission together and allow for last-minute complications.

When will I learn the outcome of my application? Do you provide feedback on unsuccessful applications?

Writing WA aims to notify all applicants by 30 June 2024. We are unable to give individual feedback.

How many writers will be selected for the Program?

Up to 20 placements are available.

What is the duration of the Program for successful applicants?

July 2024 - August 2025.

Where can I find the Application Form?

On our [website](#) or email info@writingwa.org for a copy.

How do I apply?

Check the Eligibility Criteria, which is listed below and on the Application Form. If you meet every required point, please complete and email the Application Form as an attachment in one Word document before the deadline to Laurie Steed: l.steed@writingwa.org

What kinds of writing do you accept on the Program?

The Program is open to adult writers of any genre or form of poetry, fiction, short fiction collection, and creative non-fiction. The Program is not designed for illustrators or writers of children's fiction, picture books or junior fiction.

What will the Program offer its Emerging Writers?

Workshops, mentoring, and per diems, plus access to other benefits such as networking events, discounts, and access to additional professional development activities and services offered by our Co-Host partners.

Who are the Co-Host partners?

The Emerging Writers Program is a collaborative project that leverages the unique strengths and specialities of many established writing organisations operating in Perth, Western Australia. Through an Expression of Interest process, Writing WA is now engaged with 5 local Writers' Centres (our Program Co-Hosts) that are identified on the Application Form. Each Co-Host has capacity to offer its selected member writers a variety of additional benefits throughout the duration of the Program. *To find out what your Centre can offer, please contact them directly.*

NB: Confirmed participation of the Co-Hosts listed on the Application Form is contingent on the final number of Program participants. Each successful applicant will be supported by Writing WA and the Centre that they nominated in the Application Form, of which they are a financial member. The Writing WA team is hopeful that the final cohort of writers will represent a diverse spread of projects and genres, and include all 5 Co-Host Centres, but this is not guaranteed and depends on the number and merit of applications received.

What are my requirements if selected for the Program?

Successful applicants are expected to attend all activities held by Writing WA (see below for more details), focus on the completion and/or polishing of a high-quality debut full-length manuscript by the end of the Program, and complete an artistic report.

How often and what day of the week are the Program activities?

Professional development events will take place every two months at the State Library of WA on a day to be confirmed through negotiation with Writing WA and the participants. There will also be monthly mentoring sessions at a time/day/venue that is mutually suitable to the writer and their selected mentor, and an end-of-program celebration. Additionally, participants will have access to optional extra events, services, and support through their nominated Writers' Centre.

What is an 'Emerging Writer'?

An *emerging writer* is a term often used in the literary world to describe a writer who has begun to establish a career but has not yet reached significant recognition or success. The term emphasises the potential and growth of the writer, suggesting that they are on the path to becoming an established author. It is important to note that the definition can vary and is subjective, as the literary community does not have a standard definition for what constitutes an 'emerging' writer. For the purposes of applying to this Program, you will be an adult with some history of professionally published short work, preferably in the same genre of the proposed project, however you will not have had a full-length work professionally published, produced, or contracted for future publication. Applicants may have received some awards or acknowledgments, but they are still in the early stages of their writing career. Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria below for further details.

Is this a funded initiative?

Yes, thanks to the Government of Western Australia through the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries.

What happens if there is another pandemic/I am unwell/anything else which might prevent in-person attendance?

The Program is designed to take place at the State Library of WA and we expect participants to attend all sessions to get the most benefit out of the Program. Writing WA staff will therefore work closely with participants to support their ongoing in-person attendance.

What are the Eligibility Criteria?

To be eligible for the Emerging Writers Program, you must:

- Be an adult writer over the age of 18 residing in the metropolitan or outer suburbs of Perth, Western Australia.
- Have some history of published short work, preferably in the same genre of the proposed project, but NOT a full-length creative manuscript either contracted for publication or professionally published as of the date of applying to this Program.
- Be currently working on a compelling debut full-length manuscript that is at least 50% complete (first draft) and is a work of fiction, short fiction (collection), poetry or creative non-fiction targeted towards adult or young adult readers.
- Be a current financial member of a Writers' Centre as listed on the Application Form.
- Be available to attend all scheduled activities in the Program while also progressing the work-in-progress full-length manuscript (as described in the Application Form), ideally to completion and ready to pitch to publishers by August 2025.

I do not live in Perth – is this a problem?

This round of the Program is only open to writers living in metropolitan or outer suburbs of Perth. However, please note that we are planning to run a Regional Program in the future, subject to successful funding. Applicants must be committed to attending all scheduled Emerging Writers Program sessions and events at the State Library of WA, plus mentoring at other venues and/or online. Per diems will be provided to all successful applicants to support travel costs to the State Library.

I have previously self-published short works and/or a full-length work. Can I apply?

Yes.

I have access requirements. Will that affect my ability to take part in the Program?

No. We will work with you to make sure your requirements are met so that you can participate fully in the Program.

I am professionally published, but I still think I would benefit from the Program. Can I apply?

No.

Can I use the Program to work on my PhD/MA?

No. The Program is designed for WA writers not already receiving other institutional support.

I have previously participated in the 4 Centres Emerging Writers Program. Can I still apply?

Writers previously selected for the 4 Centres Emerging Writers Program can apply if they meet the Eligibility Criteria, however priority will be given to new participants.

I have an agent, but they have not yet sold my book. Can I apply?

Yes. But please let us know if anything changes.

I have a contract with a publisher, but my book is not yet out. Can I apply?

No.

Can I apply with more than one writing project?

No. Only one application and one proposed project per person is permitted.

Can I include more than one sample of my writing?

No. The sample should be a polished extract from your work in progress. Refer to the Application Form for word limits.

What happens if my writing sample exceeds the word count?

Your application will be disqualified if you exceed the word count.

What happens if I attach more than one document?

Your application will be disqualified if you attach more than one document. Applicants should only send one document, i.e. the fully completed Application Form.

Can I include letters of recommendation?

No. You can however list achievements or quote extracts from letters of recommendation in your CV, if this is relevant to your application and adheres to the word/page limit.

Who will be assessing the applications?

Members of Writing WA staff. Conflicts of interest, if any, must be declared, and that person or persons will then be required to stand down from assessing those applications.

How will Writing WA assess applications and choose the successful applicants?

Writing WA staff will look at the merit and publication potential of the proposed projects, writing quality, and writers who can demonstrate commitment to the craft. The successful cohort of applicants will ideally represent a diversity of genres, topics, styles, themes, and backgrounds, and is representative of all 5 nominated Co-Host partners. We especially encourage First Nations and CaLD writers to apply.

I still have questions – who can I contact?

info@writingwa.org



The Emerging Writers Program 2024-25 is facilitated by Writing WA in conjunction with local writers' centres, and funded by the WA Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries

