



2025-2026 Entry Rules for Adults

About entries

1. The competition will be judged in **2** separate sections:
 - **Adult short story** (1st prize £500, 2nd prize £300, 3rd prize £200)
 - **Adult poetry** (1st prize £500, 2nd prize £300, 3rd prize £200)
2. The adult competition is open to all writers worldwide.
3. You may submit **only one entry per section**.
4. Entry fee for the adult sections is £10 per entry. For 2 entries (one poem + one short story) fee is £18.
5. The writing must be previously unpublished and can be in any variety of English or Scots or a combination of both.
6. The writing must be inspired by the theme specified on the entry form.
7. The length of entries is limited as follows:
 - Poetry, up to 40 lines
 - Short story, up to 2500 words
8. Copyright will remain with the author. The organisers reserve the right to publish a collection of winning and commended entries. Winners will be required to supply an electronic copy (in pdf format) of their entries for publication on the High Life Highland website www.highlifehighland.com.
9. Entrants who use real people *under their real names* as characters in their story or poem are advised that they should ensure they have permission to do so, as winning entries will appear on the High Life Highland website.

About submission of entries

1. Early submission is encouraged. The last date for acceptance of entries is **Friday 06 March 2026**.
2. **Entries by post:** Three copies of each entry must be submitted, typed on A4 paper. Entrants should NOT put their names on the manuscript but should send one completed entry form plus the 3 copies. Please send entries in an envelope clearly marked "**Neil Gunn Writing Competition**" to: The Library Support Unit, High Life Highland, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UA. If an email address is supplied, receipt will be acknowledged by email. For a posted acknowledgement of receipt, enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope marked "Receipt".
3. **Entries by email:** Entries may be sent in pdf format, with entry forms in Word or pdf format to **neilgunnwritingcompetition@gmail.com**. Receipt will be acknowledged by email.
4. **Entry fees** can be paid in one of the following ways:
 - by cheque or postal order made out to *The Neil Gunn Trust*
 - by direct bank transfer to Virgin Money. **This is the preferred method.**

Within UK: to account name: The Neil Gunn Trust, sort code: 82-62-07, account number: 40441247

Outwith UK: to IBAN GB90CLYD82620740441247 (Use your name as reference.)

- By Paypal: if you have a Paypal account you can pay by clicking the Paypal button on the Home page of the Neil Gunn Trust website
<https://neilgunntrust.org/>

About the judging

1. A panel appointed by High Life Highland and The Neil Gunn Trust will judge the entries.
2. The judges reserve the right to make special commendations for individuals.
3. Those judging the competition or involved with its organisation in any direct way are not eligible to enter.
4. Entries cannot be returned.
5. Judges cannot enter into discussions about individual entries.

Comments by the lead judges on winning entries will be available at
<https://www.highlifehighland.com/>