

FAQs for The Cooke Agency and the HC/UBC Prize for New Fiction 2016:

Q: I was a student at UBC's Creative Writing Program years ago. Am I still eligible for this prize?

A: Yes, as long as you can provide a valid UBC student ID number, you may submit your work. If you no longer know your student ID number, please be in touch with Annabel Lyon at UBC.

Q: I am currently a student in the UBC Creative Writing Program but haven't yet graduated, am I eligible for this prize?

A: Yes, as long as you can provide a valid UBC student ID number, you may submit your work.

Q: Can I submit multiple manuscripts?

A: No. If you have more than one work, carefully consider which one you want to submit to us as we will only consider one manuscript per student per annum.

Q: Can I submit a project again if I've already submitted it to the Prize in previous years?

A: Yes, you can submit a project more than once in consecutive years if you feel that the editorial work put in since the last submission warrants a reread. Submitting the exact same work year and year again, however, will likely not yield different results.

Q: Is there a word length restriction?

A: Yes. We have a minimum word length of 60 000 words but no maximum restriction. We would, however, suggest that you keep your work within the reasonable confines of its genre.

Q: Do you accept all genres?

A: The prize is limited to book-length works of fiction submissions intended for young adult or adult readers. Essentially, novels or collections of short stories.

Q: Will we hear back from you once we send through our submission?

A: Yes, we have an automatic reply set up that will be triggered by your email. If you do not receive such a response after sending through your Work, please make sure that you sent it to the correct email address (bestnewfictionprize@cookeagency.ca) and also check your junk folder in case our auto-response ended up there.

Q: How many people will be shortlisted?

A: There will be three authors who are shortlisted for the prize and one winner selected from the shortlist.

Q: When will the shortlist be announced? And the winner?

A: On or before September 30th, 2016, with the winner following shortly after.

Q: Will the shortlisted authors be notified in advance?

A: The three shortlisted authors will be notified a week or so prior to the notification of a winner.

Q: Does the winner receive an advance?

A: Yes, once the winner has been selected HarperCollinsPublishers Ltd will make an offer as per traditional publishing conventions.

Q: How much will the winner's advance be for?

A: As per traditional publishing conventions, there is no standard advance amount. The offer will be market-driven and dependent upon the confines of your work and genre. This decision is wholly at the discretion of HarperCollins*Publishers* Ltd, but The Cooke Agency will be able to guide you through the offer and acceptance process as your agent.

Q: Do the shortlisted authors receive any sort of consolation prize?

A: Yes, the two shortlisted authors will receive an editorial phone meeting with a HarperCollins editor after the winner has been announced.