

THE McKNIGHT ARTIST FELLOWSHIPS FOR WRITERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I apply for both the Award in Children’s Literature and the Award in Creative Prose?

No. McKnight Foundation considers all of its Artist Fellowships to be a part of one program. Any applicant may submit for only one of the McKnight Artist Fellowships in any given year. For instance, you cannot apply for a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Writers **and** a McKnight Artist Fellowship for Screenwriting in the same year.

2. May work that is pending publication be counted towards eligibility?

Yes, if the work will appear in print—either in book form or in a journal—**before April 1, 2021**, you may include it to meet the publication requirements. You must submit a letter or email from the editor or publisher acknowledging that your work will be published by April 1, 2021.

3. Does the manuscript submitted to the competition need to be unpublished?

No. While all applicants must be sure to meet eligibility requirements in order to apply, the actual work sample you submit for consideration does not need to be unpublished. Put your best work forward.

4. What is the purpose of the biographical statement? Do the judges see this?

The judges do not see your biographical statement. We ask for this simply so we have the information when the winners are announced. Because of tight publicity deadlines, we have found it difficult to get this information from winners in a timely manner, so we ask for it at the time of application. No one but the program administrator will see your bio. Include in your statement anything you would want to share about yourself publicly should you be chosen a winner of the fellowships.

5. Why do you require publications? Isn’t it a catch-22—if people are already published, why do they need the fellowship?

The McKnight Artist Fellowships are intended to give Minnesota artists of demonstrated ability the opportunity to work on their craft for a concentrated period of time. All of the various artist fellowships recognize excellence over time in those disciplines. For the Fellowships for Writers, this is demonstrated by producing and publishing work, whether in literary journals, online journals, or in book format.

We do not feel that the publication requirement is a catch-22 situation. We know of only a handful of writers who are able to earn a living solely on their writing—most have to

teach, do freelance work, or take other jobs in order to pay their bills. The intention of this fellowship is that artists can take time off from work for an extended period of time and focus their attention on their craft. There has never been a writer who has received this award, no matter their number of publications, who hasn't needed the fellowship in order to devote time to writing.

6. What about work published in anthologies—does that count toward the publication requirement?

Yes, work published in an anthology may be used to meet the eligibility requirements for publication. **However**, a piece may only be used once to meet the requirement. If, for example, you published a short story in a literary journal and it later appeared in an anthology of short fiction, that story can only be counted as one publication.

7. Do I need to submit a plan of how I would use the fellowship?

No, there is no proposal or plan needed. The money is intended to allow artists to focus on their craft. We recognize that each writer will have different needs. Some may use the money for a work-release from a college or university. Some may upgrade their computers. Some may be able to turn down freelance work in order to write.

8. When are winners announced?

Most likely, winners will be announced in early April 2021. However, judges frequently ask for more time to make their decisions, so please be patient if the winners are not announced on April 1. Winner will be notified by phone; all other applicants will receive emails informing them of the results after the winners have been notified. If you will have a different phone number or email in April of 2021, please indicate it on the cover sheet or email your updated information to the program director at bphi@loft.org.

9. How should my manuscript be formatted?

For the awards in creative prose, manuscripts should be in a 12-point font and double-spaced. Pages should be consecutively numbered, starting with page 1. If your submission contains multiple stories or essays, they must be numbered 1 through no higher than 30. Please do not start each new piece with page 1.

For the award in children's literature, prose entries should be double-spaced and use a 12-point font. Poetry may be single- or double-spaced. Pages should be consecutively numbered, even if they are a combination of prose and poetry or several different short pieces.

You may include a brief synopsis of the work sample as part of your page count.

Your name may not appear on any pages of the manuscript, including the synopsis. You may include the title(s) of the piece(s) you are submitting.

10. If I am a full-time student, but not in creative writing, can I apply for the McKnight?

No. Full-time students in a degree-granting program are not eligible. Part-time students and students not in a degree-granting program may apply.

11. If I am a full-time student but will have graduated before the program starts, can I apply?

No. Eligibility is determined at the time of application. Conversely, however, if you are not a full-time student at the time of application but will start a full-time program during 2021, you are not eligible.

12. I have further questions which were not answered here.

Email our director of events and awards, Bao Phi, at bphi@loft.org. Due to the high volume of requests for help, please plan ahead and contact us before the week of the deadline to ensure a reply. Also, please note that though the deadline time is listed as 11:59 p.m., the Loft office hours are not extended past 5 p.m. that day. Please plan accordingly.