



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

HARPER-WOOD CREATIVE WRITING & TRAVEL AWARD FOR ENGLISH POETRY & LITERATURE

FAQs

1. Am I eligible to apply?

If you are a graduate of any university in the UK, Ireland, the Commonwealth or USA at the time of election you are eligible to apply.

2. What information do I need to provide for the Academic Record question?

It's not necessary to provide grades/marks for your degree(s), providing information on the degree(s) taken and where they were obtained is sufficient.

3. How strict is the word limit?

It is essential to stay within the word limit for all answers. Any words above the limit will not be considered within your application.

4. Is the competition just open to residents/citizens of the UK?

The competition is open to non-UK residents/citizens as long as at the time of the election you are a graduate of any university in the UK, Ireland, Commonwealth or USA.

5. Can I apply if I have previously published work?

The award is intended primarily for creative writers who are in the initial stages of their careers. Applications are **encouraged** from writers whose work has not yet achieved book-length publication (whether that be a novel, short stories, poetry collections or play). **If you are working towards having your writings published this will not make you ineligible for the award.**

6. Can I submit examples of 'non-fiction' writings?

Yes. It is perfectly acceptable to submit examples of non-fiction writings.

7. What should I do if I am having problems uploading my PDF files?

If you get the following error message when uploading a PDF file: “*The file Writings.pdf has not been uploaded. It has problems that will prevent it being merged with others.*”, please create a new file and upload that. You can do so by opening the original file, select “Print as PDF”, and then use this new file. If the problem persists, please contact sjcamrf@joh.cam.ac.uk.

8. Within my travel itinerary, can I visit multiple countries?

Yes. You can spend time in more than one country as part of your travel plan. There are no stipulations on how long you should stay in any one country. Please outline your plans within the ‘Travel Itinerary’ section of the application.

9. Is one reference acceptable?

No. Applications without two references will be considered incomplete.

10. I am unable to send a reference request to my referees.

Please ensure that you have completed the “Personal” section of your application before sending reference requests. If the problem persists, please contact sjcamrf@joh.cam.ac.uk.

11. What if my referee does not upload their reference

We advise that you request your references as soon as possible through the application portal, and that you contact your referees personally to make sure they are happy to write a reference. If your referee does not upload a reference, please make sure their email address is correct in your application and get in touch with them directly to ensure they have received the reference request.

Please note that sometimes reference requests might go into the referee’s spam folder, therefore it is important that you also contact your referee directly if the deadline is approaching and the reference has not been received.

12. Can I change my referees?

Yes. You can change your referee details by going in the “References” section of your application and clicking the “Edit” button to the left of the referee you want to remove. You can then delete the previous name and contact details and insert the new one(s).

13. Do both referees need to be familiar with my creative work?

While having two references that are familiar with your creative work will make your application more competitive, a character reference is acceptable.

14. Can I change my application after submitting it?

No. Please ensure that you are satisfied with your application before submitting it. Any additional achievements after the submission date will not be considered.

15. How long does the successful candidate hold the award?

The award is tenable for one year and is not renewable.

16. When does the successful candidate take up their award?

The successful candidate would normally be expected to take up their award on 1 October of that academic year.

17. When does the successful candidate receive the funding for accommodation and living costs?

The maintenance grant will be paid in four equal instalments at the beginning of October, January, April and July.

18. How does the successful candidate apply for additional assistance?

The College is able to make grants from the Harper-Wood Fund in addition to the maintenance grant in order to assist the award holder to study abroad. Claims for airfares, mileage and accommodation costs associated with travel may be made. Claims should be supported by receipts and can be submitted at any point throughout their tenure.