

# **THE EMMA PRESS CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE PRESS

The Emma Press is an independent publisher specialising in **poetry, short fiction and children's books**. It was founded by Emma Dai'an Wright in Winnersh, Berkshire, in 2012 and is now based in Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham, UK.

We publish prose (fiction and creative non-fiction), poetry pamphlets (chapbooks), and books for children. We have a growing list of translations which includes titles from Guatemala, Latvia, Estonia, Indonesia, Spain and the Netherlands.

We are open for manuscript submissions **twice a year**. If you come across The Emma Press and you've missed the most recent window by a hair, you'll only have to wait 6 months max until the next window.

You can find us at [hello@theemmapress.com](mailto:hello@theemmapress.com), and on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter as @theemmapress.

## January - February 2024 CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Dear writers,

**Our next call for submissions will be from 30 January - 6 February 2024.**

This is a call for **prose for adults in the form of life writing/creative non-fiction or novellas only**. We will not be accepting submissions of short story collections, poetry pamphlets, children's poetry collections, children's fiction or picture books in this call.

We'll be hosting an [Instagram](#) Live for any questions about submissions, as well as a [Twitter](#) Q&A session meant to provide encouragement, companionship and as a push to help you finish your proposal.

### **Timeline:**

- **Instagram Q&A:** Thursday 18 January
- **Twitter Q&A:** Tuesday 30 January
- **Submission period:** Tuesday 30 January - Tuesday 6 February 2024

We'll keep sharing tips, prompts, and updates on submissions windows through our [newsletter](#), so make sure to sign up for that!

We encourage you to read some of our previous publications, so you can get a sense of what we like. The curated Emma Press Bundles are our suggested readings for anyone considering submitting – [take a look](#).

### **Response time:**

We will aim to respond to everyone who has submitted within 1 submission cycle, i.e. 6 months. If we think your proposal could be a good fit for The Emma Press, we will get in touch with you to request the full manuscript or more information. We will publish shortlists from each submission window, alongside comments on what we loved about those works.

We will select 1-2 books to publish from each call for submissions, and we will aim to publish books within 12-24 months of the full manuscripts being finalised.

If we don't think your manuscript is for us, we will send you a response to that effect but we're afraid it won't be individualised

and we can't provide specific feedback. We hope to be able to do more for shortlisted authors in the future.

### **What we offer authors:**

- **Advances:** We will offer a small advance on books we choose to publish from the 2022 calls for submissions, as well as author copies and royalties. £50 for poetry pamphlets and children's books, and £100 for prose for adults.
- **Editing:** We work with our authors to get their work into the best shape possible, and we recognise that different manuscripts and authors can require different approaches.
- **Production:** We provide illustration when the work calls for it, and allow authors to have a level of input into construction of the book they might not often get from bigger publishers. However, we have an editorial vision which is as important as the author's own vision. It's a collaborative process 😊.
- **Promotion:** We will work with authors to publicise books in the lead-up to and after publication. We are a small team and publish quite a few books each year, so promotion will be a joint effort between our team and the author.
- **Prizes:** We will submit books to prizes where possible.

**Thank you for trusting us with your submissions! We can't wait to read your work. We will keep you updated on our review progress via our [newsletters](#).**

## **HOW IT WORKS**

### **Submission Steps**

- 1. Write your proposal!** There are guides and suggestions on how to structure a prose proposal [here](#).
- 2. Prepare your proposal and sample pages (or full manuscript)** in a **single** .DOC, .ODT or PDF document.
- 3. Upload your proposal and sample pages to [Submittable](#).**  
You will be asked to fill out a form to help us find out a bit more about you and your work, and to purchase a pay-what-you-can submission fee. If you have any problems, drop us an email on [hello@theemmapress.com](mailto:hello@theemmapress.com).

## Eligibility

- We have a 'no agents' policy. We see The Emma Press as a place where future stars can gain a platform that enables them to get an agent, or for more established writers to take a sidestep on a side project.
- We accept submissions from anywhere in the world so long as the work is written in or translated into English.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Are you accepting children's picture book submissions?*

Sadly we're not looking for children's picture book proposals at the moment, due to the production costs and the difficulty of selling them. We love picture books and would love to do more of them, so as soon as we figure out a way to make them work we will let you know!

*Do the essay collections have to be themed?*

No. They can be themed, or they can be wide-ranging in subject matter. However, the full collection should hang together well and make sense as a book, so have a think about how to achieve this.

*Does the writing need to be completely unpublished?*

It's fine if some (up to 1/3) of your work has been previously published, but please do check with those publishers or publications that you still hold the rights to your poems and can license us to publish them again with no additional payments or paperwork.

If you have published the majority of your book on your own blog or website, or through a self-publishing site or with a publisher in another country, do think about what you actually want out of us – after all, you’ve already done all the hard work yourself and essentially the book is already published. We want to be involved in the creation of the book, so it’s not just about us providing print services and distribution.

*How many books are you planning to publish a year?*

Ideally we would publish 6-8 books a year, 2-4 of which would be children’s books.

*How many manuscripts will you choose from each submission window?*

It’s difficult to tell how many we will receive in our new windows, and therefore what the odds will be of us finding manuscripts we love and want to publish. We would hope to find 1-2 manuscripts we want to publish from each window, but this isn’t set in stone.

*I have a full-length collection of poems for adults. Can I submit this?*

No, because we are only looking for manuscripts to join the existing series of Emma Press books.

*Will you consider translations?*

Yes, we are always happy to see translations. Translators can submit multiple proposals (i.e. one per author).

*I've written a book with a friend. Can we submit as a pair?*

Yes, just be aware that you'll split the advance, complimentary copies and royalties.

*Can I submit more than one manuscript?*

To try and keep numbers to a manageable level for the team, we are limiting submissions to one per author for every submissions window. If you have multiple projects and you are struggling to decide what to submit, you might find it useful to read our upcoming newsletters and blogs about submissions.

*Do you accept simultaneous submissions? i.e. Can I send my manuscript for consideration by other places too?*

Yes, that's fine – if your manuscript is accepted elsewhere, you can withdraw your entry via Submittable directly, or send us an at **hello@theemmapress.com**.

*When will I hear back about my submission?*

We send updates on our progress in our [newsletter](#), so that is the best place to look if you're wondering when you might hear back from us. We do reply to everyone, and we read all of the submissions very thoroughly, so thank you for being patient with us.

*What happens if you do like my writing?*

We will let you know by email and take it from there. We will probably have some suggestions for tweaking or developing your writing further, so we'll explain that all in the email.

*One more thought. . .*

We only publish writing which we utterly love and believe in, which means the matter of what we publish will always come down to our personal tastes. If we can't publish your work, it's not a judgment on the quality of your writing so much as a reflection of our personal preferences in writing. **If you would like to get a sense of our tastes, do take a look at the books we have published so far.**

## **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

**We'd like to see a proposal with a writing sample for each submission, or a proposal with a full manuscript if you have it.**

**Your proposal document should tell us:**

- What your book is/what you are trying to do with it/what themes you explore in it
- Who you think would enjoy reading it/who it would really speak to - it's helpful if you can give examples of comparable titles
- Why you think it would be a good fit for The Emma Press
- What are your expectations for publication – what do you hope will happen if you have this published?
- How you would help us publicise your book

## **PROSE PAMPHLETS:**

**Please send us a proposal and sample pages (or the full manuscript if you have it).**

- Advice for submitting a sample: Include at least three essays/the first three chapters, which should give us a flavour of the book as a whole.
- Advice for submitting your full manuscript: Our prose pamphlets contain around 15-20,000 words.

## **STRUCTURING YOUR PROPOSAL**

**This section gives some guidance on writing your proposal for our upcoming submissions period.**

There are no hard and fast rules about how you should structure a proposal to us. The most important thing is to demonstrate your thinking and your vision.

If you're feeling a little lost in putting together a prose proposal for your submission to The Emma Press' open call, feel free to use the below template!

### ***Your Working Title***

#### **Introduction:**

- What is your book about?
- If you are submitting a collection of creative non-fiction essays, is there a general theme or topic? If not, what is the organising principle of your collection?
- How would you describe your prose style?
- What are you trying to achieve with your book?

- Who is your target audience?
- How many words will your book have, approximately?
  - Our adult prose collections (both essays and fiction) are between 15-20,000 words.

## **Chapter Outline**

You should have at least three essays or chapters finished to submit with your proposal.

## **Essay collections**

For the rest of the collection, we hope you have a sense of the content of each essay.

Considering the word count, how many pieces do you anticipate including in the collection?

Summarise essays in paragraphs that list:

- Working titles
- Approximate word count
- Your thoughts on the content of each piece.
- If you are writing essays that include interviews, give a sense of who your subjects would be and why. Same with

objects, locations, other writers you might be meditating on. How does your consideration of this subject contribute to your overall purpose for the collection? Are these subjects accessible to you?

- Notes on your rhetorical techniques and thoughts on the form and style of the essays.
- If your essay has appeared elsewhere, consider if you have permission to republish it, and why it is of use within this collection.

## **Novellas**

Please include a synopsis of the novella with your submission (max 400 words), outlining the narrative arc of the story.

- The best way you can show us what you want to do is to include writing samples written for this project

## **Finally...**

- Don't forget your writing samples in the same document as your proposal!
- When you upload your proposal to Submittable, you will be asked to fill out a form to help us find out a bit more about

you and your work, and to write the number of your pay-what-you-can submission fee order.

**That's it! If you have more questions, you can contact us at [hello@theemmapress.com](mailto:hello@theemmapress.com).**

**[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for writing prompts, updates on the submissions process, and new things from the Press!**