

### **Who is eligible to apply for the Play It Forward Fellowships?**

The Play It Forward Fellowships programme is designed to provide equal access and opportunity to writers whose voices and stories have traditionally been underrepresented in Irish literature and publishing.

We welcome applications from those protected under the Nine Grounds of Equal Status laid out by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, religion, age, disability, race, and membership of the Traveller community, as well as socio-economic status, residing across the island of Ireland.

### **What is the duration of the Play It Forward Fellowship programme and what does it entail?**

The Play It Forward Fellowships will commence in July 2021 and run through December 2022. Over the course of eighteen months, fellows will receive structured support including mentoring, editorial feedback, career consulting, participation in workshops, training, festivals and literary events, as well as opportunities to meet and build relationships with editors, agents, publishers, writers and industry experts.

Fellows can anticipate spending up to four hours a month on fellowship-related activities including mentoring meetings, masterclasses and writing workshops. Fellows will also participate in the week-long Stinging Fly Summer School in July 2022, as well as attend occasional literary festivals and events which may occur on weekends or select evenings.

### **Are there any pre-conditions or requirements to apply to the programme?**

Candidates are not expected to have any formal or informal education in creative writing, or publishing history, in order to apply for the Play It Forward Fellowships. We strive to reach writers who would not usually have access to these kinds of opportunities. All applications will be considered on the strength of the writing sample as well as the candidate's vision for their writing, alongside a willingness to engage with the programme and inaugural cohort of fellows.

### **Are the Fellowships funded, or do I need to pay to apply or participate?**

The Fellowships are fully funded, through the generous support of The Arts Council of Ireland / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. There is no fee to apply to the Play It Forward Fellowships; if selected as a fellow, your place on the programme will be free of charge.

### **I write across fiction, non-fiction and/or poetry — can I submit in multiple categories?**

No, please select a single category for submission. We wish to open up this opportunity to as many writers as possible, so will only be able to consider one submission per applicant.

**I have a finished or near-finished manuscript, can I submit it as my writing sample?**

No, please adhere to the page limits indicated in the submissions form (a maximum of 10 pages for fiction or non-fiction, and 6 pages for poetry). Submissions with sample sizes over this limit will not be read, and the corresponding application will not be considered.

**I would like to write in a language other than English, can I apply for a Fellowship?**

In the pilot phase, we are unfortunately only able to support writers working primarily in the English language, though we hope to expand this offering in future iterations of the programme.

**I have an agent and/or I have already published a book, am I still eligible to apply?**

The Play It Forward Fellowships are aimed at nurturing and amplifying the talents of writers from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds or communities who do not already have access to opportunities within the literary sector. For this reason, we will prioritise applications from those who do not have literary representation or have not previously published a book, unless the writer is looking for guidance in working in a new genre. Self-published authors are welcome to apply.

**I know someone who would be a great fit, can I nominate a writer to apply?**

Yes! We invite nominations to the programme from individuals and organisations who are active in the communities and groups we wish to reach, as well as fellow writers, editors, agents, publishers, teachers, mentors, colleagues and friends. Please submit the name and email address of your nominee to us at [playitforwardfellows@gmail.com](mailto:playitforwardfellows@gmail.com) and we will reach out to them. Alternatively, you can direct them to the application link: [bit.ly/playitforwardfellows](https://bit.ly/playitforwardfellows).

Nominees will not receive any preferential treatment over candidates who apply to the programme directly, and will enter through the same application process as everyone else. The nominations exist simply to ensure we might reach those who may not hear of the programme through other avenues, or who may not consider themselves candidates for the programme.

**When can we expect to hear the outcome of the selection process?**

We aim to respond to all applicants by the end of June. Fellows will be announced in early July 2021.

**I have a question that is not addressed here, can I speak to someone about it?**

If you have additional questions, please email us at: [playitforwardfellows@gmail.com](mailto:playitforwardfellows@gmail.com).

