

General rules and guidelines

These are general guidelines but we have much more specific guidelines on both fiction and non-fiction submissions. Please make sure you read everything carefully before submitting.

- We only represent writers who are under-represented in mainstream publishing. This includes writers of colour, working class, disability and LGBTQ+ as well as anyone else who feels that they or their story are under-represented.
- We consider all types of fiction and non-fiction as well as children's books. We do not currently accept picture book submissions but are aiming to do so in the future.
- We represent some poets but do not accept poetry submissions, though if you are a poet wishing to write long-form work then we would welcome your submission. Likewise we are very interested in playwrights and screenwriters who wish to write long-form books but we do not accept plays, scripts or screenplays.
- In the main we only accept submissions via our online forms. Submissions which are emailed or posted to us will be disregarded except in a few circumstances. If you suffer from a disability that makes using our form hard (including where you have an anxiety related to using forms) then please email (preferably) or write to us to explain and we will let you know how to submit by email or letter. If you are in prison or have restricted access to a computer we will also accept submissions by letter, please make it clear when you are submitting that this the case.
- We want to see your best possible work. Often when we read submissions we feel like the work is a draft away from when it should have been sent to us. We understand that sometimes you get to a point where you can't evaluate your own work anymore or where you feel like you've done as much as you can. But we would always encourage you to get someone who regularly reads books similar to yours to look at it before you send it to us and to ask them to be as objective as possible. This can be someone you know, someone in a writers group or in an online forum. And if it is someone you know remember that people who love us will always be encouraging about our work but they can be asked to be constructively critical too.
- Remember that we expect all books to do one simple job: to make us want to keep turning the pages. Whatever you have written this is the central part of it. Writing is of course key and it's vital that the writing doesn't get in the way of the reader – it's why you're often told to cut adjectives, if they aren't helping us to want to keep reading because they're providing too much extraneous detail they shouldn't be there. And whatever you're writing the journey you take us on as a reader is also vital, whether that's the story in fiction and narrative non-fiction or the progression of your ideas in polemic or instructional non-fiction.

- We read every submission and respond to everyone with some brief constructive feedback. We aim to do this within 12 weeks but depending on how many submissions we have it isn't always possible. We will try to keep this page updated with our anticipated timelines though.
- Please do not just submit to us for feedback. We were really sad last year when we read someone's work and requested the full manuscript only to be told they already had an agent and were just submitting to us 'to get feedback and build buzz'. It wasted our time and meant other writers didn't get read as quickly.
- You are welcome to submit to other agents simultaneously with us. Please do let us know if another agent is interested but you are still interested in us. We can't guarantee prioritising you in these circumstances but we will try.
- We require uploaded documents for the proposal / sample chapter (for non-fiction) or the synopsis / first three chapters. Please make sure they are in the following format:
 - Arial. 12 point. Double spaced. Numbered pages.
 - Save either as a .doc, or a .docx.
 - Don't share a OneDrive file, Dropbox file, a Pages file or Google Doc with us. We the saved file.
 - Your name and the title of the piece should be on the front page. Don't put it in the header or footer because e-readers sometimes do horrible things with these.