**PEN Presents application form**

**English PEN does not accept submissions via email, and is only able to receive applications via the dedicated form on our website. Please visit** [**https://www.englishpen.org/translation/pen-presents/**](https://www.englishpen.org/translation/pen-presents/) **to apply.**

**Information**

PEN Presents supports and showcases sample translations, funding the often-unpaid work of creating samples, giving UK publishers access to titles from underrepresented languages and regions, and helping diversify the translated literature landscape

PEN Presents is open to literary translators anywhere in the world, for proposals to create sample translations of previously untranslated works.

This round of PEN Presents is open to proposals for translations of works in any language and from any geography, of any form, genre and style.

This round is in collaboration with Translating Women and supported by an Open Innovation Platform grant from the University of Exeter and the AHRC project *Changing the Landscape: Diversity and Translated Fiction in the UK Publishing Industry*.

Applications will be considered against the PEN Presents assessment criteria:

* **Literary quality** (40% weighting) – we aim to support the translation of literature of outstanding literary merit;
* **Strength of the project** (30% weighting) – we aim to support projects with the potential to be successfully published in the Anglophone market;
* **Contribution to bibliodiversity** (30% weighting) – we aim to support the translation of books that contribute to the diversity of the literary landscape– books that might not otherwise be published and reach readers; from languages and regions, of forms, genres and themes, and by voices underrepresented in Anglophone publishing (see our FAQ on what we mean by ‘bibliodiversity’ here [link]).

Translators are in the first instance invited to submit proposals for sample translation, but not samples. The PEN Presents Selection Panel will select a shortlist of 12 submissions, each of which will receive a £500 grant to create and submit a 5,000-word sample of the proposed work. These samples will then be considered by the Selection Panel against the assessment criteria, with 6 selected to be showcased on the PEN Presents platform, and shared with UK publishers.

To apply to this round of PEN Presents, translators should submit a proposal via the online submission form on the English PEN website, attaching 1) this form and 2) a record of correspondence with the rights holder for the work indicating that the translator is permitted to propose a sample translation to PEN Presents.

Before completing this form and submitting a proposal, translators should carefully review the “eligibility” and “conditions of the award” sections on pages 2 and 3 of this document.

**Eligibility criteria**

This round of PEN Presents is open to:

* translators based anywhere in the world;
* translators at any stage of their career;
* works of fiction (including short fiction, drama, poetry, children’s literature, graphic novels and illustrated literature) and non-fiction – but not purely academic work or magazines;
* works **not yet published in English translation** in any territory (where ‘published in English translation’ is taken to mean legally and with the consent of the rightsholder translated and published in any form);
* works of any era;
* works of any length;
* works where English translation rights (UK or World English) are available;
* works originally written/published in any language;
* works by writers from anywhere in the world.

Translators can submit only one proposal to a round of PEN Presents.

Proposals for both works that **have** been published in their original language and those that **have not** are eligible (provided that a copy of the original-language text of unpublished works can be shared as part of the assessment process).

Proposals for works containing multiple languages are eligible.

Proposals for works to be translated from a bridge language are eligible.

Proposals for co-translations are eligible, and where co-translators are submitting a proposal they should use only one application form, and collate their CVs into one document. If a submission for a co-translation is shortlisted, the £500 grant will be split between the translators, and they should create only one 5,000-word sample.

Proposals for works for which a countersigned contract exists between a publisher and translator for an English translation are **not** eligible.

* **Conditions of the award**

Translators applying to PEN Presents should be aware of the commitments of the process and conditions of the award:

* translators submitting proposals should be aware that, if their proposal is shortlisted, a condition of the £500 grant is that they will create and submit to English PEN a 5,000-word sample;
* translators should be aware that, if their proposal is shortlisted and their sample in turn selected for showcasing on the PEN Presents platform, they should be able to work editorially on the sample with English PEN;
* if a proposal is shortlisted and awarded a grant, but not selected as one of the final works to be showcased on the PEN Presents platform, translators are at liberty to pitch the sample to publishers with no conditions; if the work is acquired, English PEN would encourage translators to ask publishers to include the following wording in prelims/copyright pages:

*This translation was shortlisted for PEN Presents, a programme by English PEN supporting sample translations of underrepresented works.*

however, the grant for shortlisted proposals is not contingent on this acknowledgement;

* if a sample is selected as one of the final works to be showcased on the PEN Presents platform, and is acquired after being promoted to UK publishers, English PEN and the translator will encourage the publisher to include the following wording in prelims/copyright pages:

*This translation received a PEN Presents award, a programme by English PEN supporting sample translations of underrepresented works.*

and English PEN will provide the publisher with branding materials (including the “Winner of an English PEN award” roundel) that we will encourage them to use for the publication; however, the grant for the sample translation and the work’s inclusion on the PEN Presents platform is not contingent on this acknowledgement and branding;

* if a sample is selected as one of the final works to be showcased on the PEN Presents platform, it is a condition of the award that the sample cannot have appeared in the public domain.
* if a proposal is shortlisted or selected for showcasing on the PEN Presents platform, and is subsequently acquired by a UK publisher, it remains eligible for submission to English PEN’s PEN Translates programme, supporting the translation costs of previously untranslated books; however, PEN Presents support will not guarantee PEN Translates support, and a project’s shortlisting or selection for PEN Presents will not be considered in the PEN Translates assessment and selection process.

**Application form**

**Key information**

Please fill each of these boxes with key information that will be expanded upon below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Translator’s name:** |  | |
| **Translator’s email address:** |  | |
| **Title of work (in original language):** |  | |
| **Title of work (in English translation):** |  | |
| **Original language:** |  | |
| **Original publisher (if applicable):** |  | |
| **Original publisher location (country and city or state) (if applicable):** |  | |
| **Original publication date (if applicable):** |  | |
| **Author’s name:** |  | |
| **Author’s country of citizenship:** |  | |
| **Author’s country of residence:** |  | |
| **Number of pages in original work:** |  | |
| **Number of words in original work:** |  | |
| **Genre (e.g., literary fiction, poetry, short fiction, crime, memoir, graphic novel, YA, children’s literature, etc.):** |  | |
| **Rights available (keep the correct rights availability and delete the other):** | UK | World English |

**Proposal**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Synopsis of the proposed work**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Biography of the author**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Information about the success of the original work – e.g., sales figures, prizes and other accolades, quotes from reviews, details on other translation rights sales.**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In what way do you think this work meets the Literary Quality criterion?**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |
| **Why do you think English-language readers will want to read this book, and how do you think it will reach them? (What sort of readers will enjoy the book; what other books already available in the English-language might they enjoy? How do you see the book fitting into the English-language market?)**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Why would you like to translate this book? Why do you think you are the right translator for this project? Write a bit about you as a translator.**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |
| **What do you think publication of this work in English translation would contribute to bibliodiversity in the Anglophone landscape? (This may be in relation to language, form, genre, theme, the voices involved in the project, and a range of intersecting points.)**  **(max. 300 words)** |  |

**Declaration**

**In signing this document, the applicant declares that: there is currently no signed contract for the proposed work to be published in English translation, and a translation of the work into English is yet to be commissioned; they have permission from the rights holder for this work to submit a proposal to PEN Presents; they are able to meet the conditions of the PEN Presents process, including the commitments required should they be shortlisted and/or selected for showcasing; all information provided is accurate and correct.**

**E-signatures will be accepted.**

Name:

Signature:

Date:

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**The deadline for applications is 23.59pm GMT on 31 January 2022.**

Please address any questions about eligibility to Nadia Saeed: [nadia@englishpen.org](mailto:nadia@englishpen.org)

Please keep a copy of your application for your records

Applications should be uploaded with supporting documents to the submission portal on the English PEN website.