



“Resilience is based on compassion for ourselves as well as compassion for others.”

Sharon Salzberg

The 2021 ACU Prize for Poetry

Inspired by the Catholic Church’s long-standing tradition as a patron of the Arts, the ACU Prize for Poetry has established itself since its inception in 2013, as one of Australia’s most prized poetry awards. The Prize has as its aim the simple goal of supporting the emergence of new and dynamic Australian poets and poetry. The theme for the 2021 ACU Prize for Poetry is ‘Resilience’.

ABOUT ACU

Australian Catholic University (ACU) engages the Catholic Intellectual Tradition to bring a distinct perspective to higher education. The University explores cultural, social, ethical and religious issues through its teachings, research and service – and contributes to its communities by fostering and advancing knowledge in education, health, commerce, humanities, science and technology, law, and creative arts.

ACU graduates are skilled in their chosen fields, ethical in their behaviour, with a developed critical habit of mind, an appreciation of the sacred in life and a commitment to serving the common good.

FINALS JUDGE PROFESSOR M.T.C CRONIN

M.T.C Cronin has published over twenty books (poetry, prose poems and essays), a number of which have appeared in translation. She has also published jointly written collections with poet/translator, Peter Boyle and poet/librettist, Maria Zajkowski.

Cronin has studied arts, law and literature and has worked in many jobs, weird and wonderful. She currently lives on a farm with her long-term partner of almost 40 years, Richard Mohan, and their three daughters who are in a pop-rock band called Mary Valley.

SHORTLIST JUDGES

Emeritus Professor Margot Hillel OAM,
Chair of the Academic Board at ACU

Professor Robert H F Carver,
*Director of the Western Civilisation
Program at ACU*

acu.edu.au/prizeforpoetry

Conditions of entry

1. Poems must be in English and be the original work of entrants.
2. Poems must be unpublished (including on any website or blog), must not have won any other competition, and must not be under consideration by any publisher, literary journal or for any other prize for the duration of the competition.
3. Australian residents, including any international student currently studying at an Australian university, are eligible to enter.
4. ACU staff members (except the panel of judges and Prize administrators) and ACU students are eligible to enter.
5. Entrants' names must not appear on any page of the work, and only on the entry form.
6. Entries should be submitted in Arial or Times New Roman font size 12 and in word format only.
7. Each poem must not exceed 80 lines.
8. Entry is possible online via the webpage. Entries will not be accepted by email or fax. All entries will be retained by the University.
9. Entries open on Tuesday 6th April 2021 and the closing date for entries is 5:00pm EST Monday 5th July 2021.
10. Multiple entries are permitted online. While each entry requires an entry fee, multiple entries may be paid for with one credit card transaction.
11. If entrants withdraw their entry, the entry fee will not be refunded.
12. No changes can be made to a poem once received by ACU.
13. Incomplete entries will be considered invalid, and not be processed.
14. Valid entries cannot be withdrawn after the Prize closing date of Monday 5th July 2021.
15. The judges reserve the right not to award the Prize.
16. ACU reserves the right to quote extracts from poems, but not to exceed the 'fair dealing' provisions of the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), in order to promote the ACU Prize for Poetry. This is separate from the licence you grant to ACU to print winning and commended poems in full on the ACU website, in ACU magazines and publications, and other promotional materials. Copyright will remain with the author.
17. Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email.
18. The winning, highly commended, and shortlisted poems will be announced on Tuesday 7th September 2021. Results will be published on the ACU website and may be published in external publications including newspapers, magazines etc. The winning and commended works will be displayed at the awards ceremony which will be held in Melbourne on Tuesday 7th September 2021.
19. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence about the result will be entered into.

PRIZE MONEY

First Prize: \$10,000
Second Prize: \$5,000
Third Prize: \$3,000

The prize is made possible through the sponsorship of the Office of the Vice President at Australian Catholic University.

SUBMISSIONS

Open Tuesday 6th April 2021
Close Monday 5th July 2021

ENTRY FEE

\$25 per poem.

ENTER ONLINE

www.acu.edu.au/prizeforpoetry

CONTACT

Office of the Vice President
Australian Catholic University
prizeforpoetry@acu.edu.au
+61 2 9739 2801

WINNERS

The 2021 ACU Prize for Poetry winners will be announced at the Awards Night which will be held on the ACU Melbourne Campus on Tuesday 7th September 2021.

Frequently asked questions

WHEN DOES THE COMPETITION CLOSE?

Entries close at 5:00pm EST on Monday 5th July 2021.

CAN I ENTER MORE THAN ONE POEM?

Multiple entries are permitted online. Simply follow the prompts online to enter as many poems as you wish.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO ENTER?

It costs \$25 for each poem you wish to enter. You must pay a separate entry fee for each poem but you may pay for multiple entries in one credit card transaction.

IF I HAVE PUBLISHED MY POEM ON FACEBOOK OR MY PERSONAL BLOG CAN I STILL ENTER THAT POEM?

No. Poems must be unpublished (including on any website or blog).

IF I HAVE ENTERED MY POEM IN ANOTHER COMPETITION, CAN I STILL ENTER THE ACU PRIZE FOR POETRY COMPETITION?

You can, as long as the poem has not won any other competition, be under consideration by any publisher, literary journal or any other prize for the duration of the competition.

ARE POEMS REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED IN A PARTICULAR FONT?

Yes, entries are to be submitted in Arial or Times New Roman font size 12 and in Word format only.

DO I PLACE MY NAME ON EACH PAGE OF MY POEM ALONG WITH THE TITLE?

No, as all judging is blind, only page numbers and poem title should appear on each page of your poem. Your name must not appear on any page of the work, and the only place your name should appear is on the entry form.

DO ENTRIES HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED VIA THE ACU WEBSITE?

Yes, entry is only possible online via the webpage. Entries will not be accepted by email or fax or post.

DO I HAVE TO BE A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER OF ACU TO ENTER?

No, in fact anyone who is an Australian resident or New Zealander residing in Australia, over the age of 18, or any international student currently studying at an Australian university, is eligible to enter. ACU staff members (except the panel of judges) and ACU students are eligible to enter.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY ENTRY HAS BEEN ACCEPTED?

Once you have completed the online entry process, you will receive two emails from ACU. The first will confirm you've uploaded your poem/s correctly and we have received them. The second email confirms your payment has been processed and provides you with a tax receipt.

Postal Entry:

All entries for the 2021 ACU Prize for Poetry must be submitted electronically.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF LINES IN MY POEM?

Each poem must not exceed 80 lines.

WHAT IS THE JUDGING PROCESS FOR THE ACU PRIZE FOR POETRY COMPETITION?

Upon receipt of each entry, it is checked to ensure it meets the prize guidelines by a member of the Prize for Poetry admin team who are based in Sydney. Each poem receives a unique identifying number (UIN). When the competition closes on 5th July 2021, all entries with their UIN and poem name are sent to the judges for shortlisting. The successful shortlisted poems are then returned back to the admin team, to be sent to the Final Judge for final judging. At no stage do any of the shortlisted or final judges communicate with each other.

The two-tiered process ensures that the poems are shortlisted and judged without knowing the identity of the author, and the poems are judged solely on their merit. The Final Judge notifies the administrators of the winners by the UIN and title, and the Prize for Poetry admin team refer to the database for details of the authors. Rest assured all personal information you provide to us (name, address, email and phone) is kept secure and separate, managed by the Prize for Poetry admin team in Sydney.

WHEN WILL THE WINNERS BE ANNOUNCED?

Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email by the end of July 2021.

The winning, highly-commended and shortlisted poems will be announced on the 7th September 2021 at the Prize for Poetry Awards night to be held in Melbourne. Results will be published on the ACU website and may be published in external publications including newspapers, magazines etc.

WHAT POEMS ARE PUBLISHED IN YOUR CHAPBOOK? HOW DO I OBTAIN A COPY?

Shortlisted poems are published in the ACU Chapbook and on the ACU website. All shortlisted poets will receive a complimentary copy of the Chapbook. Copies of the 2021 Chapbook, together with previous years will be available for purchase after the Awards Ceremony as well as online.

HOW DO I ENTER BY POST?

You are unable to enter via post this year.

CAN I CONTACT SOMEONE AT ACU TO DISCUSS A QUERY THAT I HAVE?

Yes, you are welcome to contact us either via email on: prizeforpoetry@acu.edu.au or via phone at: 02 9739 2801