

Mo Siewcharran Prize 2022 Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is being organised by Quercus Editions Limited (**'Quercus'**) of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DZ. The following prizes will be awarded to the top three entries:
 - a. The winner of the first prize (the **'Winner'**) will receive:
 - i. £2,500 prize money;
 - ii. a 2-3 page letter from a Quercus editor giving editorial feedback on their proposal;
 - iii. a follow-up one-hour editorial session with a Quercus editor (either online or in person);
 - iv. introductory meetings with at least 2 different literary agents;
 - v. an introductory session with the Quercus rights team; and
 - vi. meetings with the Quercus marketing and publicity teams.
 - b. The first runner-up will receive:
 - i. £1,500 prize money;
 - ii. a 2-3 page letter from a Quercus editor giving editorial feedback on their proposal; and
 - iii. a hamper of books.
 - c. The second runner-up will receive:
 - i. £750 prize money; and
 - ii. a hamper of books.
2. The Winner's entry will also be taken forward to the next Quercus Acquisitions Meeting and considered for full publication with an advance against royalties. Quercus does not guarantee that the Winner will be offered a publishing contract. Quercus reserves the right to consider any of the entries for publication.
3. The prizes will be awarded to the writers that submit the Proposals (as defined in Clause 6 below) for the best original English-language commercial crime thriller novel, judged against the Content Criteria (as described in Clause 4 below) from entrants who meet the Entry Criteria (as described in clause 5 below).
4. The entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria (the **'Content Criteria'**). We're looking for a well-written, page-turning piece of writing that shows a strong sense of story and atmosphere. It should introduce its reader to a memorable cast of characters and a compelling plot. The novel must (in Quercus's opinion) sit firmly in the crime & thriller genre (this can include subgenres like police procedural, psychological thriller, historical crime, cosy crime, legal or action thriller, and supernatural suspense).
5. In order to be eligible for the competition, entrants must meet the following criteria (the **'Entry Criteria'**). Entrants must be aged 18 or over, be from a Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority background, and be resident in the United Kingdom. Entrants must not have an agent and must be previously unpublished (that is, they must not have had any book previously published by a publisher or self-published in any format or be under a contract to have their work published).
6. Entrants to the competition must submit a proposal for a novel that fulfils the Content Criteria consisting of (i) up to the first 8,000 words of the novel (either the first three chapters or up

to the first fifty pages), (ii) a synopsis of the full plot of the novel of no more than 700 words, and (iii) a list of the book's characters (together the '**Proposal**'). The Proposal must be in English.

7. Proposals must be submitted via [the competition landing page](#). Entries may only be submitted between 12:01am BST on 1st May 2022 and 11.59pm BST on 31st May 2022. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, will not be eligible for entry to the competition.
8. A longlist of up to twelve Proposals (the '**Longlisted Proposals**') will be chosen from entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions by employees of Quercus and other companies within the Hachette UK group. The Longlisted Proposals will be submitted to a panel of judges who will include Santanu Battacharya (the winner of the Mo Siewcharran Prize 2021), crime fiction critic and reviewer Ayo Onatade, literary agent Camilla Bolton of Darley Anderson, number 1 bestselling author Elly Griffiths, debut author Amen Alonge, the co-chair of Hachette UK's Thrive network Ella Patel and two Quercus editors (together the '**Judges**'). The Judges will select a shortlist of up to six Proposals (the '**Shortlisted Proposals**'). The Winner and two runners-up will then be selected by the Judges from the Shortlisted Proposals. The Judges' decision is final.
9. By submitting their Proposal, each entrant undertakes and warrants that their Proposal consists of their own original work and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of anyone. If a third party's material is used, such as lyrics of a song, the entrant will secure the necessary permission and will provide it to Quercus on request. Each entrant further warrants that their Proposal will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from being considered for the competition at any stage.
10. The name of the Winner and the two runners-up will be announced at a prize ceremony hosted by Quercus in London on a date to be determined in September 2022 (the '**Prize Ceremony**'). The authors of all Longlisted Proposals will be invited to attend the Prize Ceremony and Quercus will cover their reasonable travel expenses for attending up to a maximum of £100 per person (on presentation of receipts). The names of the authors of the Longlisted Proposals may also be published on The Future Bookshelf and Quercus websites and in other media, including social media sites.
11. The competition is not open to employees of Quercus, their families, or to anyone professionally connected to the competition or to the judges either themselves or through their families.
12. An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk.
13. Quercus is not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.
14. Quercus reserves the right to (i) cancel the competition and (ii) alter the details of the prizes or judging panels without notice but Quercus will try to avoid creating any undue disappointment. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the prize will be provided.

15. Any personal data submitted by entrants, including their names and email addresses (the 'Information'), will be used by Quercus (who is the Data Controller) for the purposes of this competition, including without limitation for the purpose of judging the entries and providing the prizes, in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and in accordance with Quercus's Privacy Notice which can be found [here](#). The Information will be deleted within six months of the announcement of the Winner.
16. No purchase is necessary to enter the competition.
17. By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.
18. These Terms and Conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Terms and Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.