



PENGUIN  
PRIZE for  
African  
Writing



## RULES FOR THE FICTION PRIZE

### OVERVIEW

The Penguin Prize for African Writing will be awarded to writers of a previously unpublished, full-length adult work in two categories: Fiction and Non-fiction. The winner in each category will be awarded a prize of R50 000 (approximately US\$5 000) as well as a publishing contract with Penguin Books (South Africa) that will include worldwide distribution via Penguin Group companies. Through this award Penguin aims to highlight the diverse writing talent on the African continent and make new African fiction and non-fiction available to a wider readership.

### JUDGING

After all submissions have been received, a shortlist for each prize will be announced. Two panels of judges will be selected and invited to adjudicate the shortlists in the two categories. The judges will adjudicate electronic copies of the submissions.

### TIMELINE

The shortlists will be announced in April 2010 and the prize in each of the two categories will be awarded in September 2010.

**The closing date for submissions is 30 January 2010.**

### CRITERIA FOR ENTRY AND RULES FOR THE FICTION PRIZE

- Novels of freshness and originality that represent the finest examples of contemporary fiction out of Africa will be considered;
- Submissions must be typed full-length works of fiction (generally between 60000 and 100000 words);
- Poetry, plays, and short story collections will not be considered;
- Submissions in the children's literature, science fiction or fantasy genres will not be considered;
- Submissions should be previously unpublished works and the rights available to Penguin Books (SA) for worldwide publication and distribution;
- Submissions must be original works, from established or new writers;
- Submissions must be in English;
- Translations into English will be accepted, as long as the rights to publish in English around the world are not held by another publisher;
- Entrants must be citizens of an African country, where Africa is defined as continental Africa and the associated islands;
- The competition is not open to Penguin employees, screeners or judges for the prize, nor to members of their families;
- The judging panel will be convened by Penguin Books (SA);
- The shortlist of entries will be communicated to the successful entrants;
- The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into;
- Submissions must preferably be emailed to: [fictionprize@za.penguin.com](mailto:fictionprize@za.penguin.com). Hard copy submissions will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances after formal correspondence with the Prize Administrator on [fictionprize@za.penguin.com](mailto:fictionprize@za.penguin.com) or addressed to The Prize Administrator, Penguin Books, PO Box 9, Parklands 2121, South Africa;
- Entrants may submit only ONE entry;
- Entrants must keep copies of their work as manuscripts will not be returned;
- Entries must reach Penguin Books (SA) by 30 January 2010.