

Nine Dots Prize

Submission Guidance for Applicants 2024



This Submission Guidance should be read in conjunction with the [Prize Rules](#).

Who awards the Prize?	The Kadas Prize Foundation ('the Foundation'), an English registered charity, awards the Nine Dots Prize ('the Prize'), in cooperation with Cambridge University Press (CUP) and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) at the University of Cambridge.
How to apply?	Applications must include three parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A summary response to the set question, which must be no more than 3,000 words in length. Should you win the Prize, you will be required – with the support of the editorial team at CUP – to develop this summary into a short book of between 25,000 and 40,000 words. The summary should cover the main ideas and arguments your proposed book will make, the evidence and research on which it draws and the key conclusions it will reach.- An outline structure of this short book, including provisional chapter headings. This must be no more than 1,000 words and will show how you see your response expanding into a complete book and how you would develop your arguments, should you be successful. It is an opportunity to prove that there is enough depth to your arguments to provide content for an entire book.- A justification statement, which must be no more than 1,000 words, that sets out how you will complete the book in the time given (approx. seven months). This will outline your previous experience in communicating effectively about evidence, research and ideas, and a commitment from you that your responsibilities will allow the book to be completed in the seven-month period. Where relevant this can include confirmation of support from your institution(s) or employer(s) that time away from your usual responsibilities has been approved.
	All entries should be submitted through the online submission form on our website http://www.ninedotsprize.org . No entries submitted via other routes will be accepted. No changes to entries can be made once submitted.
	The deadline for submissions is 11.59am GMT on Monday 27 January 2025 . Please note our deadline is always set for midday (not midnight) on the submission date so that our UK-based team are available to answer questions or deal with any technical issues. The Nine Dots Prize cannot be held responsible for applicants missing the deadline because of technical problems when uploading documents to the site. Please allow sufficient time to submit before the deadline.

	We will not accept late submissions, or entries that are over the set word limits for any of the three parts.
	Fiction entries will be accepted as submissions. As with all entries, fiction entries would need to engage fully with the question and utilise research, evidence and experience in order to answer it. We encourage applicants to look at the Judging Criteria, set out below, and consider whether their fictional response meets these criteria.
	The summary response should include references to the research and evidence used. References can be in any format. References in the form of endnotes, footnotes or a Bibliography at the end of the document do not count towards the 3,000-word limit. References included in the main body of the text will be counted.
	Documents should be in Word (.doc or .docx formats) and should not exceed 5MB in size.
Who is eligible to apply?	All are welcome to submit: the only stipulation is that applicants must be 18 years of age or over. Responses and the resulting book must be in English.
	We are looking for innovative thinking, whether this comes from new voices or from experienced authors. The Prize's heartland is in the analysis of contemporary society and societal challenges, and we welcome responses that draw on a range of perspectives and disciplines.
	Joint entries will be considered. Where more than one author is submitting, the justification statement must make clear how they will work together to provide a coherent response and book. Proposals that put forward a number of authors all contributing single sections (such as an edited collection) will not be accepted. Each author will be expected to agree to the Prize Rules .
	Only one entry per author will be accepted (whether as an individual or with others).
	Applicants can be based anywhere in the world. Authors based in UK sanctioned countries at the time of submission are welcome to submit, however additional considerations may apply. For example, the Foundation will need to assess whether it is possible, in accordance with its charitable status, to pay the monetary award to a successful author from a UK sanctioned country.
	Trustees of the Foundation, Board members or Judges of the Prize, or family members of any of these, are not eligible to apply.
Who makes the decision?	All Board members can act as Judges for the Prize. Where the Board deems it appropriate, non-Board members with expertise in the subject area of the question may also serve as Judges (collectively referred to as the 'Judging Panel').
How will they judge the winning entry?	The Judging Panel will consider the submissions based on the Judging Criteria (see below) and award the Prize to the entry that in their view best responds to the set question.
	The Judging Criteria states that the Judging Panel will look for submissions that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are original, important and of excellent quality; • contain a strong argument and show a depth of analysis; • are rigorous whilst being accessibly written and engaging for a wide audience; • exhibit a distinctive voice; and • are relevant to the question.

	Responses can critique, agree or disagree with, or reject the premise of the question set, but they must engage with it fully and insightfully.
	Responses may use research and evidence from a wide variety of sources. Entrants are welcome to draw on their experience or the experience of others in answering the question, but this should be contextualised alongside relevant research and evidence. A purely opinion-based response will not be accepted.
	The Prize will be judged anonymously. The Judging Panel will make their decision on anonymised versions of the summary response and outline structure documents only. Entrants do not need to anonymise their responses. The Prize's organising team may use the justification statement provided to confirm information contained in the submissions. But the final decision will be made on the strength and originality of the response to the set question.
What will the winner receive?	The Prize winner will receive US\$100,000 from the Kadas Prize Foundation - payable in three stages: on announcement of the winner, on delivery of the manuscript to CUP and on publication of the book. The book will be published by CUP and made available open access online (i.e. free to read online and download) and also published by CUP in a range of print and digital commercial formats. CUP will also provide support and editorial assistance to the Prize winner. By submitting the response, the author(s) is/are agreeing that if awarded the Prize, the book will be published by CUP in various formats, and the author(s) will promptly enter into the necessary publishing agreement(s) with CUP or third parties for the publication in accordance with the Prize Rules.
What support is available to the winner?	The winner will receive support from the Nine Dots team throughout the period of writing their book. The opportunity to spend a term at CRASSH will provide a creative environment in which to develop their ideas and writing. The winner will also receive editorial support from an experienced team at CUP. On publication, the winner will have support from Riot Communications and CUP's marketing team to help their book reach the widest possible audience.
What is the Prize timetable?	The provisional timetable (which may be subject to change) for award of the 2024/25 Prize is as follows:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 October 2024 – Prize launch • 11.59am GMT (midday) 27 January 2025 – Submission deadline • May 2025 – Announcement of Prize winner • October to December 2025 – Optional Visiting Fellowship at CRASSH, University of Cambridge • October 2025 – 60% of the book (including some full chapters) to be delivered to CUP • October 2025 - Prize seminar to be held by CRASSH and progress report by the author • 2 January 2026 – Final manuscript submitted to CUP • May 2026 – Book published by CUP
If successful, what would the winner need to provide?	By submitting a response, the author(s) guarantee that, if awarded the Prize, they will submit a manuscript of between 25,000 to 40,000 words to CUP by 2 January 2026. This will include delivering 60 per cent of the book by October 2025 (including some full chapters) to ensure the book is reviewed, edited and published on schedule. The Prize winner(s) will also participate in a seminar in October 2025 (or such other date as agreed) by CRASSH virtually or in Cambridge,

	where they will have a chance to discuss the work in progress; and will undertake a reasonable number of activities (for example, media appearances, social media engagement, other written outputs or progress reports etc.) to promote the author's own work and the Prize. The details of these will be agreed with the Prize winner(s) after award of the Prize.
Originality of idea and writing	By submitting a response, the author(s) undertake that their response and resulting book will consist of their own original work and will not infringe the intellectual property rights of anyone. If a third party's material is used, the author will undertake to obtain the necessary permission. The intellectual property conditions placed on Prize winner(s) are detailed in the Prize Rules.
	The Prize seeks to reward original ideas but understands that some authors may have begun to explore ideas outlined in their response in previous publications. These may be referred to, or short excerpts included within the book, but your submission must be a new and original work in itself. If you do re-use previously-published material, the author will be responsible for clearing any required permissions for the re-use of this work in accordance with the CUP publication agreement.
	We do not accept entries that have used generative artificial intelligence (AI), Large Language Models (LLMs) and related tools as part of their creation.
	Entries remain the property of applicants at all times. Further details on the need to grant a licence/licences to CUP for publication are detailed in the Prize Rules. As the Prize is judged anonymously, we encourage applicants not to publish their entries elsewhere prior to the Judging Panel's final decision.
	The Prize will not publish any of the responses in full, including the winner's response. Extracts from the winner's response will be published online at the time of the Prize award.
Data protection	The Foundation will handle the author(s)' personal information in accordance with the Prize's Privacy Policy .
Prize Rules	By submitting a response, each submitting author agrees to be bound by the Prize Rules, including signing an agreement with CUP governing the publication of the book and a grant agreement with the Foundation setting out terms on which the Prize is made as detailed in the Prize Rules.
	The Judging Panel's decision in selecting the Prize winner is final and no correspondence will be entered into or challenge to the decision considered.
	If no application is considered to be of the required standard, the Judging Panel reserves the right not to award the Prize. No alternatives to the Prize will be provided.
How can I ask questions about the Prize?	There is a Frequently Asked Questions page on the website that may be helpful. If not, then applicants can either email the Prize on questions@ninedotsprize.org or tweet us at @NineDotsPrize.