

SUBMISSIONS FAQ

Do I have to follow your guidelines?

Yes please. Sending us the correct information, in accordance with our guidelines, gives you the best chance of presenting your work effectively. We sift through hundreds of submissions, and anything that doesn't follow the guidelines won't be considered.

How long will you be open to submissions for?

Our submissions inbox is open indefinitely, so you don't need to rush to get your manuscript in – please take the time to ensure it's in the best possible state before you submit.

What genres do you accept?

We accept all genres of fiction and have a broad remit to acquire everything from literary, book club, crime and thriller, historical, fantasy, YA, and women's fiction.

With non-fiction, we have similarly broad scope, and are interested in memoir, history, current events, natural history, humour and gift books.

What should be in my cover letter?

Your cover letter is your opportunity to pitch your submission to a publisher in a way that entices them to read it. The writing in your cover letter should be of a high standard, to reflect the writing in your book. Take care to get this right.

The cover letter should be 2 – 3 paragraphs. The first should contain: genre, comparison titles, and an elevator pitch (a sentence or two that describes your book in a nutshell). The titles you pick to compare your book to should be recent (unless they are classics), and have ideally performed well. If you don't have obvious comparisons you should think about writers you would like to be compared to, and where you would hope to be stocked in a bookshop. Sometimes comparisons to films, videogame series or TV series are also helpful to give a sense of who you see as your audience.

The next paragraph should be a slightly longer (but still brief) description of the plot/content of your book, similar to what you'd usually read on the back of a book cover. It introduces us to character, setting, and conflict and establishes the key narrative arc – don't reveal what happens at the end, but do aim to hook the reader.

A third para might be a little bit about yourself, though you don't need to give too much detail – anything that is particularly relevant to the book or your writing credentials would be ideal, but don't worry if you don't have any!

There are many blog posts to be found online giving guidance on how to write a strong query letter – if you're feeling unsure about your letter, it would be worth doing a bit of research and reading before you submit. A strong cover letter will go a long way getting your submission noticed.

I submitted to you but haven't heard back.

We try to respond to every submission, but the volume is such that this can take some time. If you haven't heard back in 12 weeks, it's most likely that we won't be pursuing your submission. Owing to time constraints and the number of submissions we receive, we can't offer personalised feedback on projects.

Do I need to have a full manuscript written in order to submit to you?

For fiction submissions, we require a full first draft. For non-fiction, a proposal with sample writing is acceptable, as non-fiction is often acquired on the basis of a proposal.

Any last bits of advice?

Please keep in mind that publishing is a subjective business, so a 'no' from one publisher certainly doesn't mean every publisher will respond that way. Please be kind and thoughtful in your words towards us: we're always looking for new submissions, but rejections are unfortunately part of the job. We endeavour to be polite and respectful in our communications and ask the same of any prospective authors. Good luck!