



National Society of Arts and Letters
Supporting young talent in the performing, visual, and literary arts since 1944

Writing SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,000 in Scholarships

For ages 16–22

Competition in fiction short story

1000–7500 words

Entries due February 1, 2026





National Society of Arts and Letters Writing Scholarships

The NSAL Writing Scholarships in Short Story are annual scholarships available through the National Society of Arts and Letters to young writers ages 16 to 22.

- Successful applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and promise of future success.
- The scholarship funds are for private study, special training or personal advancement. The funds can be used for college tuition, but not for housing, travel or personal expenses.
- Scholarship funds are sent to the institution, teacher or program selected by the scholarship recipient. Scholarship recipients have 15 months to use the funds.
- Scholarship recipients may reapply as often as their age allows and are eligible to participate in other NSAL competitions.
- Scholarship recipients may be asked to read from their work at a future NSAL awards ceremony or showcase.

ELIGIBILITY

- Contestants must be citizens of the USA or residing legally in the USA on February 1, 2026.
- Applicants should be at least 16 years old, but not yet 23 on March 1, 2026.
- Judging will be done with the 16- to 18-year-olds in one group and the 19- to 22-year-olds in another group. There will be awards in both groups.
- Scholarship applications will be submitted to the NSAL Chapter nearest their homes or schools. For contact information, see the last page of this brochure.
- Applicants must not be (or previously have been) under exclusive professional management or representation.
- Submissions must not have been published.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- We will accept one fiction short story submission per applicant.
- Each story submission must be a minimum of 1,000 words and may be a maximum of 7,500 words.
- No AI content, or AI-assisted content. Applicants must be the sole author of their original work.

- Manuscripts must be clearly typed, double spaced, and in a clear, simple font such as Times New Roman in 12 point size.
- Please submit in PDF format.
- Submissions will be judged blind, so please do not include your name, email, or any identifying characteristics on the short story itself. On your short story's first page, please include the title and word count along with your initials. Pages should be numbered consecutively in the top right corner beginning after the title page.
- Please ensure the file name of your submission is only the title of your story and your initials.

TIMELINE

- Scholarship applications are due to be submitted online to chapters by February 1, 2026.
- The deadline for chapter finalists' application submissions to national is March 1, 2026.
- NSAL Writing Scholarships winners will be announced in the third week of April 2026.

Questions? Please reach out via email to your local NSAL Chapter
or to the National Chair at lucyoquaye@gmail.com

National Society of Arts and Letters Chapter Contacts

Alabama: Birmingham Chapter President: Catherine Rogers catrogers@earthlink.net	Kentucky: Kentucky Chapter President: Twyla Martins trmarts@mac.com
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