

How to Submit a Fiction Manuscript

Congratulations on completing your manuscript! You've finally reached the finish line and we are here waiting to read your work.

We aim to get back to you within 12 weeks. But before you send it to us to be considered for publication, please acknowledge the following guidelines to give your book the best chance.

Before you send your manuscript

- Please don't submit genres that we don't publish at present. Here at HarperNorth we aren't currently searching for children's books, young adult fiction (YA), fantasy, short stories, novellas, poetry or plays.
- Most novels are upwards of 80,000 words. If you've reached the end much sooner than that, consider either expanding your story or deciding if it would make a better short story.

You don't need

- An agent – we're currently open to agented and unagented submissions. Do check out *The Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* if you would like to submit your work to agents.
- A cover design
- An author photo
- To pay anything – we are a publisher rather than an editorial or publishing service

When writing your submission email

Please include the following:

- Author name
- Book title
- Genre/category
- Full manuscript as a Word document attachment
- Your pitch – This should be no more than 250 words (what would you say if you were selling the book or writing on the back cover?)
- Short synopsis – This should tell us the action of the book, including the ending

- Short author biography: 100-200 words. This is your chance to tell us all about yourself. Let us know who you are, what you do and if you've ever been published before
- Social media links if applicable

Comparisons

Consider what other authors and books you can compare your work to. For example you may tell us 'My novel will appeal to fans of (insert author name)' or you may write 'My novel is a (insert genre) like (insert title by insert author)'. This helps us to imagine who your ideal reader is and what to expect when reading your manuscript.

Presentation

Please use an easy to read font (something like Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial for example), and it's a good idea to check your manuscript and covering note for spelling errors. Despite the belief that sending in chapters as separate attachments is most convenient, we much prefer the whole manuscript to be in one document.

We can't wait to read your work – thank you for trusting us with it.