Please read the rules below carefully before entering. By submitting an entry you are agreeing to be bound by these rules.

1. Closing date for receipt of entries is 31st January at midnight BST. All entries received after this deadline will be automatically disqualified.

2. Entrants must be over 16 years old on the closing date.

3. The maximum length of submissions is 3,000 words **(does not include title)**, there is no minimum length. Stories can be on any theme or subject and are welcome in any style including graphic, verse or genre-based (Crime, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Historical, Romance, Children’s etc).

4. The Fresher Writing Prize is open to all writers who do not currently have representation by an agent/publisher. Entries can be made online or by post.  All entries should be in English. Postal entries will only be accepted as printed typescripts. There are no specific formatting requirements – font type, font size, line spacing etc. Writers may format their work in the way they feel is most appropriate. Please send postal entry/entries to: Fresher Writing Prize, Bournemouth University, Weymouth House, Fern Barrow BH12 5BB

5. Authors may enter as many stories as they like. Stories must be entered separately; there is an entry fee of £6 for each story submitted. Payment for online entries should be made via the website [https://fresherwritingprize2016.eventbrite.co.uk](https://fresherwritingprize2016.eventbrite.co.uk/)

Payment for postal entries should be made by cheque. Cheque payments must be in pounds sterling and cheques should be made payable to ‘Bournemouth University’.

6. **Entries will not be returned**. Please keep a copy. No corrections or alterations can be made after receipt of an entry.

7. Entries must be entirely the work of the entrant and **must** **never have been previously published, in print or online** (including self-published, magazines, journals, websites, blogs, social network sites), or broadcast or won a prize in another writing competition.  Any entry found to have been plagiarised will be disqualified. Simultaneous submissions are welcome – but please let us know as soon as possible if a story is to be published elsewhere or has won a prize in another writing competition.

8. Entries will be read and judged anonymously by Panel; entrants names and contact details should only appear on the entry form and not anywhere on their stories/manuscripts. The stories/manuscripts must be free of all personal information about the author. This includes age and address.

9. If you require acknowledgement of receipt of your postal entry then please enclose a stamped addressed postcard marked ‘Acknowledgment’. Online entries will be acknowledged by email. If an entrant does not receive an email acknowledgement for an online entry they are very welcome to contact Fresher to confirm their entry has been received. Contact via email to competitions@fresherpublishing.co.uk

10. By submitting an entry, all entrants agree to have their work published in the Fresher Writing Prize Anthology 2016, in both print and ebook formats, should they be the author of one of the 20 shortlisted stories. Authors will retain worldwide copyright on their work (including film and dramatic rights) but Fresher Writing Prize has first publication rights to publish the shortlisted stories in The Fresher Writing Prize anthology, in both print and ebook formats.

11. Each of the shortlisted authors will receive 2 free copies of the paperback version of The Fresher Writing Prize Anthology and will be able to purchase further copies at a discount of 50%. All shortlisted writers will be able to purchase any number of copies of any volume of The Fresher Writing Prize Anthology at a discount of 50%. Any profit from the sale of the The Fresher Writing Prize Anthology will go towards future events to support new writers.

12. No competitor may win more than one prize. Entries will be read by a panel of writers/lecturers. They will select a longlist for judging panel. The judging panel will select the stories to be published in the Fresher Writing Prize Anthology 2016 and the top prize winning stories. The judges’ decision is final and no individual correspondence will be entered into. Judges or readers will not comment on individual stories or give feedback on individual stories.

13. Prizes are allocated at the discretion of the judges.

14. Prizes will be awarded at the Fresher Writing Prize 2016 Awards Ceremony on May 19th 2016 and will be sent to any of the finalists who are unable to attend the awards ceremony. Prizes, including free copies of the anthology are not dependent on winners attending the Awards Ceremony. Entrants will **not** be contacted individually about the competition results unless they are selected for the shortlist. The shortlist will be announced on the website by April 15th. The top prize-winners will be displayed on the BU website within one week after the awards ceremony.

15. Any entrant wishing to withdraw a story from the competition**before the closing date** will receive a full refund. Please contact us on competitions@fresherpublishing.co.uk We will not be able to refund any withdrawn stories after the closing date; however, stories may still be withdrawn after this date upon an entrant’s request.

16. Fresher and Bournemouth University reserve the right to use photographs and video of entrants in their publicity materials.

16. Entry implies an acceptance of all the Fresher Writing Prize 2016 rules. Entries that fail to comply with the entry rules and requirements may be disqualified.

17. Bournemouth University reserves the right to suspend, cancel or amend the rules of the competition where it becomes necessary to do so.