



## Fairfield Book Prize 2025 Submission Guidelines



Fairfield  
UNIVERSITY

Woodhall Press is honored and excited to be partnering with the Fairfield University MFA Program for the 2025 Fairfield Book Prize. **ALL ALUMNI OF THE FAIRFIELD MFA AND CURRENT MFA STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT WORK.** The contest is open to poetry, prose, essay collections, YA, memoir, screenplays, and plays.

**Submissions will open at [woodhallpress.com](http://woodhallpress.com) on 1/15/2025 and run through 2/15/2025.**

Woodhall Press Staff will screen submissions and choose finalists. Fairfield University will appoint a guest judge to pick the winner. The winner will be announced prior to the Summer 2025 residency. The winner will be published and distributed nationally in 2026 by Woodhall Press. The author will receive a \$1000 prize from Fairfield University and a standard contract from Woodhall Press. If Woodhall Press or the finalist judge deems that no manuscript is worthy of publication in a given year, there will be no award that year, and the contest will run the subsequent year.

### Manuscript Preparation

- You may submit more than one manuscript, but only if there is no overlap in content. Please submit each distinct manuscript only once.
- Send to [submissions@woodhallpress.com](mailto:submissions@woodhallpress.com), and include FAIRFIELD BOOK PRIZE in the subject line.
- Manuscripts must be word processed on 8.5" x 11" paper, one-sided, with numbered pages.
- Files should be saved as .doc, .docx, or PDFs.
- Include a cover sheet with name, address, synopsis, and manuscript title.
- You may acknowledge individual poems, stories, and other pieces published in magazines, anthologies, or elsewhere.

### Poetry Specs

- Manuscript length: 45-80 pages.
- Single-spaced.
- No more than one poem per page.

### Prose & Creative Nonfiction Specs

- Manuscript length: short stories and novellas (or a combination thereof), or personal essays: 100-200 pages.
- Novels and memoirs: up to 350 pages
- Double-spaced.
- For memoirs/novels: you may include a cast of characters and a one-page summary.
- Note: Novels and Memoirs should be unpublished work but may contain previously published excerpts.

### Screenplays

- 90 - 150 Pages
- Standard Screenplay Formatting
- Work should be previously unpublished, but may be an adaptation of a published work.

## Plays

- About 100-125 Pages. May be a collection of short plays, one act plays, or a full-length play.
- Previously unpublished and without a major staging. For example, a public reading of a play that was not otherwise performed is acceptable. A collection of short plays may contain some staged work. Please include an acknowledgement with your submission.

## **Fairfield Book Prize FAQ**

**Who can enter?** The Book Prize is open to all FUMFA graduates and current students.

**When and Where?** The submissions period is open from 1/15/2025 through 2/15/2025  
Full submission details at [woodhallpress.com](http://woodhallpress.com)

**Finalists** will be announced in late spring of 2025, and the winner will be announced prior to the 2025 Summer Residency.

**Do we allow simultaneous submissions?** Yes, but please let us know immediately and withdraw your work if you place it elsewhere. We request that Fairfield Book Prize finalists withdraw your submitted work from consideration elsewhere, and cross your fingers until July.

**Can I submit work previously submitted to the Fairfield Book Prize that did not win?**

Absolutely! Brooke Adams Law's *Catchlight* won in 2019 after several submissions to the book prize. It was a 2020 Kirkus Reviews Best Book.

**Can I submit hybrid writing or writing that takes a nontraditional form?** Yes. Woodhall Press is interested in unusual and genre-obliterating works.

**More questions?** Email Christopher Madden: [christopher@woodhallpress.com](mailto:christopher@woodhallpress.com)

**About Us:** Woodhall Press was founded in 2016 by David LeGere, Colin Hosten, and Christopher Madden to publish unusual books. We have published 130 books by authors ranging from poet laureates, New York Times best-selling authors, to emerging writers and new voices. Woodhall books have won awards from IPPY, Foreword Reviews, and been chosen as Kirkus Best Books. We publish poetry, prose, the Connecticut Literary Anthology, Yale Writer's Workshop Book Prize, and the Fairfield Book Prize.



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