

BCU Presents: Benjamin Zephaniah Future Writers T&Cs 2025



29 April 2025

BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH FUTURE WRITERS COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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1. The promoter

The promoter is: BIRMINGHAM CITY UNIVERSITY of Curzon Building, 4 Cardigan Street, Birmingham B4 7BD United Kingdom.

2. The competition

2.1 The title of the competition is BCU PRESENTS: BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH FUTURE WRITERS.

2.2 The competition is organised by Birmingham City University to celebrate of the life and work of BCU Honorary Doctorate Benjamin Zephaniah. It is open to primary school students from Year Three to Year Six, Secondary School and College/Sixth Form students, as well as adults, with six categories in total. To enter participants must submit a poem inspired by Benjamin Zephaniah's poem 'Nature Trail'.

Please see full terms and conditions below:

3. How to enter

3.1 The competition will run from 9.00am on 15 May 2025 (the "Opening Date") to 5.00pm on 21 July 2025 (the "Closing Date") inclusive.

3.2 All competition entries must be received by the Promoter by no later than 5.00 pm on the Closing Date. All competition entries received after the Closing Date are automatically disqualified.

3.3 To enter the competition:

(a) Enter the competition online by completing the Benjamin Zephaniah Future Writers online form by Closing Date.

3.4 The Promoter will not accept:

(a) responsibility for competition entries that are lost, mislaid, damaged or delayed in transit, regardless of cause, including, for example, as a result of any postal failure, equipment failure, technical malfunction, systems, satellite, network, server, computer hardware or software failure of any kind; or

3.5 By submitting a competition entry, you are agreeing to be bound by these terms and conditions.

4. Eligibility

4.1 The competition is only open to all residents in the UK aged 18 years or over, and children under 18 years old provided that an authorisation from their parent or legal guardian is included, except:

(a) employees of the Promoter or its holding or subsidiary companies, who are professionally connected with the competition or its administration;

(b) employees of agents or suppliers of the Promoter or its holding or subsidiary companies, who are professionally connected with the competition or its administration; or

(c) members of the immediate families or households of (a) and (b) above.

4.2 In entering the competition, you confirm that you are eligible to do so and eligible to claim the prize. The Promoter may require you to provide proof that you are eligible to enter the competition.

4.3 The Promoter will not accept competition entries that are:

(a) automatically generated by computer;

(b) completed by third parties or in bulk;

(c) illegible, have been altered, reconstructed, forged or tampered with;

(d) photocopies and not originals

(e) incomplete

(f) over the line count – 30 lines

(g) do not include a title

(h) do not include authorisation and personal details from parent/legal guardian for participants under 18

(i) received by post or email.

4.4 There is a limit of one entry per person overall. Entries on behalf of another person will not be accepted, and joint submissions are not allowed.

4.5 The Promoter reserves all rights to disqualify you if your conduct is contrary to the spirit or intention of the prize competition.

5. The prizes

5.1 The prizes for first place in each of the six categories are:

12-month National Trust family pass for two adults and two children, 12-month Birmingham Botanical Garden membership for two adults and two children, two Birmingham REP tickets, Amazon Kindle with a £25 Amazon voucher.

5.2 The prizes for second place in each of the six categories are:

12-month Birmingham Botanical Garden membership for two adults and two children, two Birmingham REP tickets, Amazon Kindle with a £25 Amazon voucher.

5.3 The prizes for third place in each of the six categories are:

Two Birmingham REP tickets, and Amazon Kindle with a £25 Amazon voucher.

5.4 All winners (first, second and third place) in all categories will also have:

- Their poem displayed as part of an exhibition at Birmingham Botanical Gardens from March 2026 - July 2026, as well as a day pass to visit the venue to find their poem
- A certificate and a framed piece of their poem
- A Benjamin Zephaniah book
- Their poem included in the Future Writers Winners Anthology and their own copy
- A selection of merchandise from National Trust and Birmingham Botanical Gardens

5.5 Prizes are subject to availability. There is no cash alternative for the prize.

5.6 The prizes are not negotiable or transferable.

6. Winners

6.1 The decision of the Promoter is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

6.2 Participants whose entries have been shortlisted will be invited to attend the Awards Ceremony on 2 December.

6.3 The winners will be announced during the Awards Ceremony (Announcement Date).

6.4 The Promoter will contact the winners absent from the Awards Ceremony as soon as practicable after the Announcement Date, using the telephone number or email address provided with the competition entry. The Promoter will not amend any contact information once the competition entry form has been submitted.

6.5 The Promoter will publish the first name, last name, competition category and the winning entry of all winners on the Promoter's website, the Promoter's social media channels and in a press release issued by the Promoter after the Awards Ceremony, as well as with two competition partners National Trust and Birmingham Botanical Gardens for physical and digital display purposes.

6.5 The Promoter must either publish or make available information that indicates that a valid award took place. To comply with this obligation the Promoter will publish the surname and county of major prize winners on written request.

7. Claiming the prize

7.1 The Promoter will make all reasonable efforts to contact the winner. If the winner cannot be contacted or is not available or has not claimed their prize within 7 days of the Announcement Date, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the next eligible entrant selected from the correct entries that were received before the Closing Date.

7.2 The Promoter does not accept any responsibility if you are not able to take up the prize.

8. Limitation of liability

Insofar as is permitted by law, the Promoter, its agents or distributors will not in any circumstances be responsible or liable to compensate the winner or accept any liability for any loss, damage, personal injury or death occurring as a result of taking up the prize except where it is caused by the negligence of the Promoter, its agents or distributors or that of their employees. Your statutory rights are not affected.

9. Ownership of competition entries and intellectual property rights

9.1 The copyright in each poem submitted remains with the author but prize-winning and shortlisted entrants grant BCU a non-exclusive, worldwide licence for the duration of the competition and 12 months after it finishes (until 2 December 2026), and for ongoing publicity purposes.

9.2 All winning entries will be included in the Benjamin Zephaniah Future Writers Winners's Anthology published by Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal (PBLJ).

10. Data protection and publicity

10.1 The Promoter will only process your personal information as set out in the BCU's Privacy Notices available at <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/policies-and-procedures/privacy-notices>.

11. General

11.1 If there is any reason to believe that there has been a breach of these terms and conditions, the Promoter may, at its sole discretion, reserve the right to exclude you from participating in the competition.

11.2 The Promoter reserves the right to hold void, suspend, cancel, or amend the prize competition where it becomes necessary to do so.

11.3 These terms and conditions shall be governed by English law, and the parties submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.