2025

جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب
Sheikh Zayed Book Award

PUBLISHER SUBMISSIONS GUIDE

Discover more at:
zayedaward.ae

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ONE OF THE ARAB WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARDS

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award is one of the world's leading awards dedicated to Arabic literature and culture. Since 2006, the Award has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding work by authors, translators, publishers, and organisations around the world.

The Award does not only recognise major literary and cultural achievements, but also aims to boost the publishing industry – 2018 saw the launch of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award's Translation Grant to help produce more quality Arabic books that are translated, published and distributed outside the Arab World.

All Award winners receive 750,000 UAE Dirhams (158,000 GBP / 204,150 USD), with the Cultural Personality of the Year receiving 1,000,000 UAE Dirhams (210,700 GBP / 272,200 USD).

The Award covers ten categories: Translation, Literature, Children's Literature, Young Author, Literary and Art Criticism, Contribution to the Development of Nations, Arab Culture in Other Languages, Publishing and Technology, Editing of Arabic Manuscripts and Cultural Personality of the Year.

To ensure a rigorous selection process, the Award's Scientific Committee appoints a group of distinguished regional and international cultural experts in their respective fields, who serve on an independent, highly selective judging panel.

In each category, the decisions of the jury are meant to answer the programme's overarching goal, to encourage greater scholarship and creativity by recognising and rewarding significant cultural achievements in Arabic culture.

The Award can transform the winner's career, creating opportunities for greater scholarship and creativity. Additionally, the Sheikh Zayed Book Award Translation Grant initiative offers international publishers grants to translate its winning and shortlisted Arabic-language literary titles in the Literature, Young Author and Children's Literature categories.

The Sheikh Zayed Book Award reflects some of the most inspiring and, in some cases, challenging cultural work coming out of the Arab world today — offering the world both remarkable achievements and richer insight into the region's diverse voices and ideas.

2025 AWARD CATEGORIES

TRANSLATION:

Recognises translated works, either to or from Arabic, provided it maintains loyalty to original source, linguistic accuracy, and maintaining the context

ARAB CULTURE IN OTHER LANGUAGES:

Recognises written works produced in languages other than Arabic, tackling the Arab civilisation and culture, including humanities, fine arts, literature (novels, short stories, poems) and history.

PUBLISHING AND TECHNOLOGY:

Includes publishers, distributors, research institutions and cultural institutions, which promote culture through various forms of digital, visual and audio processes.

EDITING OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS:

This category is dedicated to efforts in editing Arabic manuscripts in any field of knowledge in the Arabic tradition. The category also includes the production of specialised and general lexicons.

CULTURAL PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR:

Honours a prominent Arab or international figure (or organisation) who has contributed to the advancement of Arabic culture, embodies tolerance through their work and promotes peaceful coexistence.

LITERATURE:

Represents works across various categories of literature including poetry, short stories, novels, biographies, theatrical plays and other types of arts.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:

Covers literary, scientific and cultural books addressing various children's groups and adolescents, whether it is fictional stories or simplified factual, historical and scientific narratives, put in an artistic layout.

YOUNG AUTHOR:

Recognises works in science, literature, culture, fine arts and humanities, in addition to scientific theses that are published and produced by authors younger than 40 years.

LITERARY AND ART CRITICISM:

Covers works of criticism in the fields of art, cinema, music, theatrical plays, imagery, architecture, sculpture, historical ruins, folkloric arts, and history of literature and theories.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONS:

Consists of books in the fields of economics, sociology, management, politics, law and theology that contribute to a nation's advancement, whether theoretic review or documenting practice.

HOW TO SUBMIT FOR THE SHEIKH ZAYED BOOK AWARDS

Submissions for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award are taken on the Award website:

https://register.zayedaward.ae/

Note: submissions close 1st September 2025

KEY INFORMATION

Submit your book/nomination by registering online then send 5 copies of your book to Sheikh Zayed Book Award HQ:

Sheikh Zayed Book Award,
DCT Warehouse (Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre)
ICT CUBES PARK, Musaffah Industrial – M-25 – Abu Dhabi

Main Contact Person: Mahmoud Ibrahim Samanter
Phone: +971 54 310 7609

An email will be sent confirming a successful online submission once 5 copies of the book are received by the Award.

A step-by-step submissions guide is included towards the back of this document.

If you have any queries with your submission or require further info please contact:

✉ Email info@zayedaward.ae

📞 Phone **+9712 657 6309** (9AM - 5PM between Monday - Friday)

📱 WhatsApp **+97150 2640440** (Please allow 24 hours response time)

Eligibility criteria for the following categories: Translation, Arab Culture in Other Languages, Publishing and Technology and Editing of Arabic Manuscripts are listed in the following pages - for detailed eligibility information for all categories please visit:

zayedaward.ae

ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA

TRANSLATION CATEGORY

ENTRY RULES:

The submitted work shouldn't have been previously awarded by an international/ prominent award or submitted to any other award at the time of submission.

The work must be published in a book format and within the last two years.

You can submit a title which has been submitted the previous year but the online application form should be filled out and new copies of the work submitted.

The translation must be from Arabic to any language or from any language to Arabic.

The nominees can only have one book submitted each year.

The submitted books must have an ISBN number to verify intellectual property rights.

If there is a co-author or artist who took part in the production, their details should be included on the online submission form and documents for the co-author or artist should also be uploaded.

ARAB CULTURE IN OTHER LANGUAGES CATEGORY

ENTRY RULES:

The submitted work shouldn't have been previously awarded by an international/ prominent award or submitted to any other award at the time of submission.

The work must be published in a book format and within the last five years.

You can submit a title which has been submitted in previous years but the online application form should be filled out and new copies of the work submitted.

Books nominated for this category should be written in English, Italian, German, French or Spanish languages.

The nominees can only have one book submitted each year.

The nominated books must have an ISBN number to verify intellectual property rights.

If there is a co-author or artist who took part in the production, their details should be included on the online submission form and documents for the co-author or artist should also be uploaded.

PUBLISHING AND TECHNOLOGY CATEGORY

ENTRY RULES:

Conditions related to publishing houses:

Publisher Profile.

Letter of Submission.

List of titles released within the last 5 years.

Company Registration Certificate.

The aim of the category is to recognise the contribution of scholarly work to our knowledge of Arabic history and heritage and to assist with the publication of said scholarly work.

Conditions related to technological solutions/digital works:

The aim of the Publishing and Technology category is to honour outstanding innovators from literary and cultural sectors within the technology industry.

All submitted copies will be transferred to the collection of Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre.

Applicants may not submit to other Sheikh Zayed Book Award categories within the same year.

Resubmitting the same work is acceptable for new Award cycles.

Description of the technology and related links and other supporting material is required.

A letter of submission, copyright certificate and registration certificate is also requested.

EDITING OF ARABIC MANUSCRIPTS CATEGORY

ENTRY RULES:

The submitted work shouldn't have been previously awarded by an international/ prominent award or submitted to any other award at the time of submission.

The work must be published in a book format and within the last five years.

You can submit a title which has been submitted in previous years but the online application form should be filled out and new copies of the work submitted.

The nominee must have a clear contribution to the fields of editing manuscripts or the production of lexicons. The submitted works should constitute a significant addition to Arab culture and human knowledge.

The submitted works must have a high level of originality and accuracy, and demonstrate familiarity with scientific methods applied to the editing of manuscripts or production of lexicons.

The category accepts works written in any language.

Each nominee can submit only one work for one of the Award's categories.

The submitted books must have an ISBN number to allow for the verification of their intellectual property rights

You can submit a title which has been submitted in previous years but the online application form should be filled out and new copies of the work submitted.

AWARD TIMELINE

Until 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025

Submissions open

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2025

Phase 1 evaluation of submissions

(Reading Panels)

NOVEMBER 2025

Longlists announced

NOVEMBER - JANUARY 2026

Phase 2 evaluation of submissions

(Judging Panels)

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

Phase 3 evaluation of submissions

(Scientific Committee reviews judges' reports)

MARCH 2026

Shortlists announced

MARCH - APRIL 2026

Phase 4 endorsement of winners

(Board of Trustees meet to approve winners)

APRIL 2026
(DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Winners announced

APRIL 2026
(DATE TO BE CONFIRMED)

Award Presentation Ceremony

STEP-BY-STEP SUBMISSION GUIDE

Submissions for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award are taken on the Award website:

zayedaward.ae

PLEASE NOTE - submissions close 1st September 2025

There is a 'SUBMIT A BOOK' button on the top right of the homepage or you can go directly to the submissions portal:

https://register.zayedaward.ae/

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The submissions portal:
https://register.zayedaward.ae/

'Sign in button'

1

To begin, press the **'Submit A Book'** button located at the top right of the webpage.

3

If you have not used the website for submissions before, you will need to register as a new user (if you have already registered you can log in with your username and password).

'Login for existing users'   **'Register as a new user'**

It is also possible to login using Facebook or Google+.

4

Please fill in your details on the **'New Registration'** page, this includes a verification code, which will be sent to the email address provided. Please fill in as many details as possible but not all details are mandatory, only the fields marked with a *****.

*Remember to tick the Captcha box 'I'm not a robot' and click 'Submit' at the bottom of the page.

5

When you sign in for the first time, you will be asked to select **'Individual Profile'** or **'Organisation Profile'** and to fill in some details:

6

Under the **Individual profile** - if you do not have a **copy of a passport**, other forms of photo ID are accepted. You can upload a placeholder document and save the information.

For **'Nominee CV'** please upload a document with details about yourself that include: full name, job title and company.

Under **Organisation profile** - for **'Organisation Profile'** please upload a document containing a short bio about the organisation/publishing house.

For **'Company Registration Number/Organisation Trade License'** - a document with the company registration number will be accepted.

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After the profile details are complete, you will go straight to the homepage of the submissions portal:

On the left hand side menu, you can update/change the profile information, see any submissions you have previously made and find out more information about the Awards.

When you are ready to make a submission, please click on the category on the submission portal homepage.

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For this example, we have clicked on **'Arab Culture in Other Languages'.**

Please fill in the requested fields - if you are **unable** to complete the submission in one go, please click the **'Save Draft'** button at the bottom of the page. If you have filled in all information you have available and are ready to submit, please click the **'Submit'** button. Once you have clicked **'Submit'** the information cannot be changed.

Unless you have already submitted some info about an author/translator, you should click **'Add new author/translator'.**

Requested documents are below:

1. Book cover

2. Author/translator resume
   For 'Author/Translator Resume' please include a biography with a list of their work.

3. Author/translator passport copy
   If you do not have a copy of the author's passport, another form of photo ID will be accepted. If you cannot obtain access to the author's identity documents, then please upload a document with the authors full name as written on any official documents. The Sheikh Zayed Book Award team may be in touch at a later date to request additional evidence.

4. Book PDF

5. Author/translator picture

6. No Objection Certificate or any form of communication agreed between publisher and author/translator.

You can either upload a signed agreement or a document outlining that the author is aware of the submission and has no objection to being nominated for the Award.

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Once you have submitted your entry, please send 5 copies of the book to Sheikh Zayed Book Award HQ:

Sheikh Zayed Book Award,
DCT Warehouse (Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre)
ICT CUBES PARK, Musaffah Industrial – M-25 – Abu Dhabi

Main Contact Person: Mahmoud Ibrahim Samanter, phone: +971 54 310 7609

An email will be sent confirming a successful online submission once 5 copies of the book are received by the Awards team.

Dear applicant

Thank you for your nomination to the Sheikh Zayed Book Award 2026.

This is confirm your application has been received.

As a next step, please send five copies of your nominated book to our offices before 1 September 2025. For works submitted in the Translation category, 5 copies of the original book must be sent in addition to the 5 copies of the translated book at the below address:

DCT Warehouse
Abu Dhabi Arabic Language Centre
ICT CUBES PARK Musaffah Industrial - M - 25
Abu Dhabi, UAE

Telephone:
+971 0543107609 - 0504138208 - 0504194678

WhatsApp: **+97150 264 0440**

Best of Luck

Sheikh Zayed Book Award

عزيزي المرشح

شكراً لتسجيلك في جائزة الشيخ زايد للكتاب 2026.

نود إفادتكم بأن عملية التسجيل الإلكتروني قد تمت بنجاح.

ونرجوا منكم إرسال 5 نسخ من العمل المرشح قبل 1 سبتمبر 2025 علماً بأن المشاركين ضمن الفرع الترجمة سيتوجب عليهم إرسال خمس نسخ إضافية من الكتاب المترجم عنه إلى عنوان الجائزة أدناه:

مستودع دائرة الثقافة والسياحة

مركز أبوظبي للغة العربية

حديقة آي سي تي كيوبز مصفح الصناعية م-25-

أبوظبي – الإمارات العربية المتحدة

هاتف:

+971 0543107609 - 0504138208 - 0504194678

واتساب: +971 50 264 0440

نتمنى لكم كل التوفيق

المكتب الإداري

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SUBMISSIONS PORTAL FAQS

Do I need to create an account to submit entries for the Sheikh Zayed Book Award?

Yes, all publishers must register for an account in order to make submissions. The process is quick and easy - please see the step-by-step guide in this document.

Can I submit via email, instead of using the submission portal?

Unfortunately, all submissions must be made via the online portal.

Should the submission be made by the author or by the institution that published the book?

This is up to the candidate as both options are valid.

I do not have access to author passport details or author date of birth. Can I submit the application and provide this information at a later date?

An ID document is mandatory, if you do not have a copy of the authors passport available, then an alternative form of photo ID will be accepted.

If you cannot obtain access to the authors identity documents, then please upload a document with the authors full name as written on any official documents. You will still be able to submit the application without fulfilling the author identity requirement, but the team will be in touch at a later date to request additional evidence.

What is a trade license, I'm not sure I will be able to obtain one, is there an alternative?

Company registration information can be provided as an alternative.

What should I submit for the Organisation Profile requirement?

A simple bio of the organisation/publishing house should be entered.

I will not be able to obtain an author No-objection Form, is this compulsory to provide as part of the submission?

No, you can upload a document outlining that the author is aware of the submission and has no objection to being nominated for the Award.

Is there a specific template for submitting the author's CV?

No, there is no specific template, a comprehensive CV covering the author's academic and professional experience will suffice.

I am not able to upload my documents/my email address is not valid.

Please try to attach documents with no characters or numbers in their file names. Please enter email addresses in lower case.

There is a technical fault with my account, is there somebody that I can contact to resolve the issue?

Yes, please email **info@zayedaward.ae** and someone will be able to look into the problem for you. We will endeavour to respond within 2 working days.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES FAQS

When is the submissions process open?

Submissions for all Award categories open 1st May and close on 1st September.

Can I submit digital versions of the nominated works?

The submission is only acceptable with 5 hard copies of the title/works.
A PDF must also be submitted to complete the submission process.

What promotional opportunities and requirements are there for longlisted, shortlisted and winning authors?

Shortlisted authors will be asked to complete a Q&A, which will be used to support communication and promotional activities of the Sheikh Zayed Book Award. The Award will also leverage its networks to develop publicity opportunities for its laureates as a way to further support their work. Laureates of the Award can therefore be approached for media and event opportunities; these may include speaking opportunities at academic and cultural events and festivals, press interviews, and podcast interviews.

Is there a payment or levy required to either submit a book and/or at any stage in the Awards process?

There is no payment or levy required.

I'm still unsure about an element of the submissions process, is there a number or email address I can contact?

Yes, please email **info@zayedaward.ae** if you have any further questions or enquiries regarding the process, and we will endeavour to respond within 2 working days. Alternatively you can call the Sheikh Zayed Book Award line on **+9712 657 6309** (9AM - 5PM between Monday - Friday) or contact via WhatsApp on **+97150 264 0440** (Please allow 24 hours response time).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FAQS

Can I submit entries written by a deceased author?

No, unfortunately not, the author must be alive in order to be submitted, as we require author authorisation for all submissions.

Are imprints or divisions of publishing houses eligible for the Publishing & Technology Award, as well as the main publishing house?

Yes imprints or divisions of publishing houses are eligible.

Can I submit more than one book across different categories?

Only one submission per author per category is permitted. The publishing house or agent can submit multiple entries for different books in each category or across several categories.

Can a work by more than one author be submitted to Arabic Culture in Other Languages?

Yes. If there is a co-author or artist who took part in the production, their details should be included in the submission form and their documents must be uploaded as part of the application.

Discover more at:

zayedaward.ae

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