



Medal for Excellence in Translation

2024 Application Guidelines

The Australian Academy of the Humanities is the national voice for cultural, creative and ethical thinking. We promote the study and application of the humanities because recording, explaining and predicting the human story brings distinctive and diverse ideas to decision-making and contributes to a better future for all.

The Medal for Excellence in Translation recognises outstanding achievement in translation and was established in 2016. The Academy wishes to acknowledge the generous support for this award by the Copyright Agency Limited, Monash University, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Western Australia.

PURPOSE

The Medal for Excellence in Translation is a major national award that recognises outstanding achievement in translation and the vital role of translators and translation in Australian culture and scholarly discourse. It is awarded biennially for a book-length translation into English of a work of any genre (including scholarship), from any language and period.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Nominations will be accepted from the publisher of the translation (not necessarily Australia-based), another individual, or the translator her/himself. The Nominator must obtain the permission of the Nominee before nomination.
2. Nominees must be Citizens or Permanent Residents of Australia who are residing in Australia at the time of nomination.
3. Multi-authored translations are eligible for nomination provided that all nominees on the application are Australian citizens or permanent residents.
4. Translations published as books, or e-books, are eligible. All nominated works must be publicly available and have an ISBN.
5. The translation must be into English.
6. The translation must have been published within the three calendar years prior to the deadline for nominations (for the 2024 award this will be 2021, 2022, and 2023).
7. In cases where there are multiple editions of a translation, published in one or more countries, only the first translation into English will be accepted.
8. The Academy will only accept one nomination per author in the year that the award is being offered.

9. The Awards Committee reserves the right to solicit nominations, which will be subject without favour to the same deadlines and competitive processes as unsolicited nominations.

PLEASE NOTE

The Medal is awarded biennially. If no suitable nominations are forthcoming, the Awards Committee reserves the right not to award the Medal.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. **Excellence of translation:** The nominated work will be judged on the basis of its success in conveying the style, spirit, effects, meaning and cultural context of the original. An Advisory Panel will consider, as appropriate, special challenges posed by the form, style or content of the original; the extent to which the translator shows an understanding of these challenges and adopts creative solutions to them; and the extent to which the translator has appropriately adapted the work to the frame of reference of its new audience.
2. **Significance of the translated work:** The importance of the source text as a work of literature, scholarship or as a cultural document.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

The Nominator/Applicant must provide the Academy with the following material via the online application system:

1. **Nominee profile** (must include current contact details);
2. **Proposer profile** if applicable (must include current contact details);
3. **Additional authors** (if applicable);
4. **Eligibility statement** addressing the selection criteria (maximum 750 words);
5. Details of the **translated work** and, where available, the **source text**. The Proposer and/or Nominee should strive to obtain an e-version of the source text from the publisher. Hard copies may be submitted, but only when e-versions are unavailable.
6. **Reference letters (x2)** from two eminent scholars that address the selection criteria. The referees must not include the nominator. They should preferably be established scholars or practitioners of translation and not from the same institution as the Nominee.
7. **Additional attachments** to include:
 - a. **Written permission from the Nominee** (if applicable);
 - b. **Curriculum vitae** (max. four A4 pages) of the nominee, or nominees if more than one translator for a given work;
 - c. **Supporting material** (up to three additional supporting documents) such as published reviews of the translated work, or publisher's reader's reports etc.

PAST RECIPIENTS

Previously successful recipients of the Medal for Excellence in Translation are ineligible to be nominated for another round of the award.

PREVIOUS NOMINEES

Previously unsuccessful Nominees are eligible to apply. The Academy will accept one resubmission of the same work from a previously unsuccessful applicant provided that the relevant documents have been updated and they still meet all eligibility requirements.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Nominee and/or Proposer give permission for the details listed in the application to be released to the members of the Advisory Panel and Awards Committee (both those listed in the application form and supporting documentation) for the sole purpose of the selection process. All information, discussions, and recommendations on Nominees are confidential.

OBLIGATIONS & DECLARATION

The Proposer is responsible for confirming:

- The Nominee is willing to be a Nominee for the Medal for Excellence in Translation.
- The Nominee has not been convicted of a criminal offence under a law of the Commonwealth, or an Australian State or Territory.
- The Nominee has not had serious disciplinary action taken against them in response to a substantiated finding of workplace harassment (including sexual harassment), discrimination and/or bullying.
- The Nominee is aware that a description of the work being acclaimed, and images of the successful recipient will be publicised.
- It is expected that the successful recipient will:
 - Attend the annual award ceremony (details to be advised). Assistance towards a domestic economy airfare and accommodation will be provided if necessary.
 - Work with the Academy to promote the importance of the humanities

APPLICATIONS CLOSE

11:59pm AEST Sunday 5 May 2024

Only electronic applications and attachments submitted via <https://humanities.smartygrants.com.au/> will be accepted. Incomplete applications and any received after the closing time and date will not be considered.

The decision of the Awards Committee (which in turn takes advice from an expert Advisory Panel) is final; no correspondence will be entered into. The Academy Secretariat and its staff are not responsible for any Committee decisions and are unable to discuss selection procedures, issue reports or give advice on the progress of nominations.

The Advisory Panel will write a brief report for publication commenting on the qualities of the winning translation and the nature of the translated text.

The successful Nominee (and proposer) will be informed of the decision by email.

ADVICE & INFORMATION

Samantha Tutton – Fellowship & Awards Coordinator

02 6189 6982 (9am-3pm AEST/AEDT)

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