



THE
SOCIETY OF
AUTHORS

GRANTS

Funding Week SoA Grants

- ▶ Robyn Law, Head of Charities
- ▶ Natalie Thorpe, Grants and Prizes Design Manager
- ▶ Rose Hensher, Grants and Prizes Administrator

Coming up...

- ▶ Overview of grants on offer
- ▶ How to Apply: Authors' Foundation
- ▶ How to Apply: Contingency Fund
- ▶ What are assessors looking for?
- ▶ Timeline for grants
- ▶ Support the funds
- ▶ Q&A



Our grants

- ▶ The Authors' Foundation
- ▶ The K Blundell Trust
- ▶ The Contingency Fund
- ▶ The SoA Access Fund
- ▶ The Strachey Trust
- ▶ The P D James Memorial Fund

Authors' Foundation

- ▶ Research trips and travel for a specific project including:
 - ▶ Flights
 - ▶ Accommodation
 - ▶ Food and other expenses while away
 - ▶ An accompanying carer to travel with you if required
- ▶ Basic living costs while writing including any carers costs or childcare costs
- ▶ Time away from other paid work
- ▶ Day rate while you work on your manuscript

Grants cannot be used for publication or production costs such as hiring proof-readers or editors, permissions or indexing, paying a publisher or buying copies of your own book, attending rehearsal, paying actors or rehearsal expenses.

Arthur Welton and Special Awards

- ▶ Arthur Welton Awards
In memory of Arthur Welton this award is generally awarded to poets.
- ▶ The Great Britain Sasakawa Grant
One grant of £2,000 is awarded annually to works of fiction or non-fiction about any aspect of Japanese culture or society or set in a Japanese context. Preference will be given to works which help to interpret modern Japan to the English-speaking world.
- ▶ Antonia Fraser Grants
This award is for a biography of a woman or women.
- ▶ John Brooks Awards
In memory, of John Brooks, this award offers funding to writers based in the West Country or Wales.
- ▶ Taner Baybars Awards
This award offers funding for original fiction in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and magic realism (for both adult and children's fiction).
- ▶ Eric Ambler Awards
In memory of Eric Ambler this award is for a spy novel or thriller.

Who's eligible? (For book projects)

You have been commissioned by a commercial UK or Irish publisher to write or translate a full-length work of fiction, poetry, or non-fiction and need funding (in addition to any publisher's advance) for important research, travel, or other general expenditure.

Or

You are without a contractual commitment with a publisher but have had at least one book published commercially by a UK or Irish publisher, of which you are the sole author or translator, and there is a strong likelihood that your next book will be published in the UK or Ireland.

In both cases you must have a non-contributory contract (either currently or for a previous publication) where you, the author, do not pay funds towards publication costs.

Who's eligible? (For script projects)

You have previously had a work of which you are the sole author professionally performed on stage, screen, or radio in the UK or Ireland.

Or

You are currently under contract to write a script that will be professionally performed on stage, screen, or radio in the UK or Ireland.

'Professionally performed' means authors must have been commissioned to write their script or have been commissioned previously for a script that was performed on stage, screen, or radio. As with translators, if your script is prospective and requires rights, it must be demonstrated that these have been acquired or at least taken into consideration.

K Blundell Trust

The K Blundell Trust, generously endowed by the late Kathleen Blundell, gives work-in-progress grants to British authors under the age of 40 whose work, which can be fiction or non-fiction, aims to increase social awareness.

Applicants must send a copy of a previously published work.

Opens for submissions annually from 1 February to 1 March.



Contingency Fund

- ▶ Make up lost income if you find yourself unable to work
- ▶ Help cover a shortfall if a project falls through
- ▶ Ease the impact on your writing career of illness or a domestic situation
- ▶ Help with one-off expenses, such as the cost of a new boiler or if your computer is on its last legs

Designed to support authors to return to a working model after a financial set back.



Who's eligible?

- ▶ Professional authors who are resident in the UK or British citizens – including fiction writers, illustrators, literary translators, scriptwriters, poets, journalists and others – for whom author-related activities make up a substantial amount of their annual income.
- ▶ The fund is not open to editors, copywriters, or for those with salaried income for writing.

Access Fund

- ▶ Travel to events including overnight stays and subsistence
- ▶ Childcare and carer support while attending an event, residency, or retreat.
- ▶ Travel, accommodation, and subsistence for a companion if one is required
- ▶ Other access needs such as materials translated into an accessible format



Who's eligible?

Grants are awarded to all authors, by which we mean:

- ▶ Anyone who creates work for publication, broadcast or performance. You do not need to be a member to apply but you should meet our criteria for membership.
- ▶ Open to UK residents and British citizens.

Strachey Trust Grants

- ▶ Strachey Trust Grants are available to authors wishing to travel to a British or Irish archive or collection to research manuscript material, for a specific full-length literary project which has a strong likelihood of publication.
- ▶ By 'manuscripts' we mean any letter, diary or other unpublished matter appertaining to a person of note, including a photographic or digitized copy of such material.



Who's eligible?

- ▶ This grant fund is open to all authors who are UK resident or British citizens, who wish to access British or Irish archives/collections.
- ▶ The author must be working on a specific full-length literary project which has a strong likelihood of publication.

PD James Memorial Fund

- ▶ Grants are given by a committee to authors who are either aged 60 or over or are completely incapacitated for work.
- ▶ The fund currently distributes £2,500 per annum to each recipient on a quarterly basis.
- ▶ The fund is currently accepting applications for new recipients, closing on 29 May 2026.

Submitting an Application

Things to remember...

- ▶ Make sure you've answered all the questions and get in touch with the grants team with any questions
- ▶ Applying to multiple funds
- ▶ Budgeting
- ▶ Reporting
- ▶ Feedback

When will I hear back?

- ▶ 2 weeks
 - ▶ Access Fund
 - ▶ Strachey Trust Grants
 - ▶ Contingency Fund
- ▶ Up to 5 months
 - ▶ Authors' Foundation
 - ▶ K Blundell Trust
 - ▶ Arthur Welton and Special Awards
- ▶ PD James recipients who apply for the 29 May deadline will be notified of the decision made by the committee by July 2026



Benefactors and Supporting the Fund

- ▶ Funds are generously supported by literary and grant giving organisations.
- ▶ Individual giving through events or donations
- ▶ Leaving money to the funds in your will

Questions



#SoAatHome | Online



Tuesday 19 May 2026
10.00-11.30



Funding Week:

**Sustainable work
for writers:**

with
Patricia Marques

SoA Members - Free

Non-Members - £35



#SoAatHome | Online



Tuesday 19 May 2026
18.00-19.30



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Funding Week:

Crowdfunding

*with
Ben Cullis and
Hannah Berry*

SoA Members - Free
Non-Members - £35

SoA Awards



- ▶ 18 June, Southwark Cathedral
- ▶ In-person and online
- ▶ Awarding over £140,000 in literary prizes and awards
- ▶ Join us for our awards ceremony with keynote from Cerrie Burnell and followed by our summer party
- ▶ Tickets available now



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