Scottish Poetry Library

Online Guide to Scottish Poets - Terms and conditions

The online guide was produced as a reference tool for anyone researching Scottish poetry. The guide currently has more than 900 entries and we aim to retain the unique aspect of the online guide and show the importance of poets and poetry in the Scottish literary landscape.

To be eligible for addition, poets living or dead must be or have been resident in Scotland or be Scottish by birth, upbringing or inclination. Alternatively a poet can be added to the online guide if they have a poem included in the annual online publication ***Best Scottish Poems***.

Criteria for inclusion

To be selected for entry to the online guide to Scottish poets, the poet must have made a significant contribution to the oral history, literature or languages of Scotland, or to the status and stature of poetry in contemporary Scotland.

Alternatively, the poet must be able to meet three or more of the following criteria.

- Have a track record of being published by having a significant body of work that does not include journalism, scholarly texts, or self-publications.
- The poet's work is included in at least one anthology and there will be more than two pamphlets published by an established publisher.
- The poet has been short-listed for or has won a major writing prize
- Has delivered spoken word performances (not readings) in the last 5 years that received positive reviews and were favourably written about.
- Has made or is making a significant contribution to the visibility of under-represented groups in Scottish poetry (class / race / language / disability / etc.).
- Significant critical attention has been paid to the poet's work by peers, academics, critics, etc.

How to submit a poet's name for consideration

Nominations for poets to be added to the online guide are opened every 2 years and anyone can suggest the name of a poet they think deserves to be added. Suggestions must be made on a Scottish Poetry Library nomination, available on the SPL website. As well as the name of the poet you will be asked for

- titles of several significant publications written by the poet or which include their work
- details of any literary prizes or awards the poet has won or been shortlisted for
- a statement explaining why the poet should be included in the guide.

Once completed, the form can be emailed or posted to the Scottish Poetry Library.

Submitted forms will be considered by a panel which will include a poet or publisher, someone with knowledge of either Scots language or Scottish Gaelic, and a member of the Scottish Poetry Library team. Poets selected for the online guide will be announced shortly afterwards.