

ROSCOMMON CHAPBOOK AWARD 2026

The Roscommon Chapbook Bursary has been established to assist Roscommon writers with the costs associated with publishing a modest collection of poems (15 – 20) or a compact collection of short stories (3 – 6). One award of €600 will be offered in 2026.

The 2026 competition will be adjudicated by Gerry Boland



Gerry Boland is a Dublin-born author and poet. He writes for adults and for children and has published ten books to date, his latest being his third poetry collection, *All That Jazz*, published in 2022 by Arlen House. His debut collection of short stories, *The Far Side of Happiness* (Arlen House) was published in 2018. His other poetry books are *Watching Clouds* (Doghouse, 2011) and *In the Space Between* (Arlen House, 2016). His forthcoming book of photos and poems on the theme of compassion and animal rights is published by Lantern Publishing & Media in early 2027. He was Writer-in-Residence for Roscommon County Council in 2013 and 2014 and he worked in an advisory capacity on the county's annual Literary Development Programmes until 2023. He runs regular creative writing workshops, in-person and online. He lives in Carrick-on-Shannon.

Deadline for entries is 4pm Thursday July 16th 2026

The Roscommon Chapbook Award Competition Rules

- All applicant writers must have a connection with the county of Roscommon (born in, living in, currently working in, went to school in).
- A typical length of a chapbook is 30 pages. This is a guideline only, though submissions that fall considerably short of this, or which are considerably longer, may not be considered suitable.
- All applicants will be advised of Council's decisions in writing.
- All applications must include:
 - The completed Application Form
 - Proposed content of the chapbook (poems or stories)
 - A current biography and/or CV, outlining details of career to date.
- There is no entry fee. All entries must be received by 4pm Thursday 16th July 2026.
- Roscommon County Council reserves the right not to award a bursary should the submissions, in the opinion of the adjudicator and the Council, not achieve a sufficiently high standard.
- Email your entry to: artsofficer@roscommoncoco.ie Title your email ROSCOMMON CHAPBOOK AWARD 2026

Application forms are available from
<https://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/services/community/arts-office/literature.html>

The name of the successful writer will be announced in local media, social media and online