

2026 National Literary Competition Rules
(Règlement du Concours littéraire national 2026)

1. Since 1978, the Ministry of Culture has organised an annual competition to encourage literary creation in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The competition is open to authors and author collectives who hold Luxembourg nationality or who reside in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg or, where appropriate, have their permanent or predominant place of work, or, failing that, places of work at various locations in the territory of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

2. The *2026 National Literary Competition* is reserved for volumes of poems in Luxembourgish, French, German and/or English. There are two categories of prizes for the competition: one for adult authors from age 20 upwards, the other for young authors aged between 12 and 19.

3. Each author or author collective may submit only one manuscript. Each author or author collective is free to choose the theme, the number of pages, the language(s) and the target audience of the submitted text.

4. The texts must not have been previously published and may not be published or distributed by any means, in their entirety or in extracts, before the publication of the results of the competition via the official press release from the Ministry of Culture. The submitted work must be strictly personal and original and must have been created without the use of artificial intelligence. Translations - even partial - of existing works are not allowed. In the case of adaptations, reference to the original work must be indicated on the first sheet of the manuscript.

5. The texts must be submitted bound in typed or printed form in a legible font.

6. Six copies of the manuscript must be sent to the Ministry of Culture **no later than Tuesday, June 30, 2026**, the closing day for applications, with proof via the postmark.

7. Candidate(s) submissions must be marked *Concours littéraire national 2026* and should be sent via mail or deposited at the reception of the Ministère de la Culture in a large envelope addressed to the "*Service de la création et de la promotion artistiques - Littérature et édition* " at the Ministry of Culture, 4, bd F-D Roosevelt, L-2450 Luxembourg. The submission must contain:

- a. **6 copies of the manuscript** that must not bear any personal mark that would allow identification of the author or author collective. Only the title of the work, a pseudonym and the age category should be indicated on each copy.

- b. **a small, sealed envelope**

bearing the following on the outside

- a pseudonym of choice
- the title of the work
- age category (adult authors or young authors aged 12-19)

and containing a card inside bearing

- the legitimate first and last name of the author/authors
- the author's/authors postal address and email address
- the author's/authors telephone number
- a signed declaration of honour confirming that the submitted manuscript does not contain any texts generated by artificial intelligence.

8. A five-member jury will be appointed by the Minister of Culture from among experts in literature who have distinguished themselves in this field by their qualifications, publications or professional work. The jury will carry out their deliberations in secret. The jury will elect a president from among its members and will respect the *general operating rules of the National Literary Competition jury*, which may be requested from the ministry and is available on its website.

9. The secretariat of the jury will be a member of the staff working at the Ministry of Culture. The jury secretary will attend the jury sessions but will not intervene at any time in the deliberation or in the vote. The secretary will ensure compliance with the contest rules.

10. Members of the jury and staff working at the Ministry of Culture may not participate in the competition.

11. As the procedure for selecting winners is based on pseudonyms only, no acknowledgement of receipt of the manuscript will be sent.

12. Manuscripts will not be returned. The personal contact information of the authors/author collectives of the manuscripts that do not win will not be disclosed to the members of the jury or other persons. The envelopes and one copy of the manuscript will be placed in the archives of the National Literature Centre in Mersch and will remain inaccessible for 75 years. The other copies of the texts will be destroyed by the secretary of the jury.

13. The jury's decisions will be made public in November 2026 via a press release sent by the ministry of Culture, which will also be made available on its website <http://www.gouvernement.lu/mc>. The awards ceremony will take place in December 2026.

14. In the adult authors category, the jury may award the following prizes:

- a first prize of €7,500 for the author and a contribution of up to €5,000 toward the publication costs of the winning work, upon submission of a proposal by a recognized publishing house,
- a second prize of €4,000,
- a third prize of €3,000.

15. There will be no ex aequo prizes.

16. In the young authors aged 12-19 category, the jury may award a first prize of €3,000.

17. The authors or author collectives retain all rights to their manuscript.

18. Entry to the contest constitutes acceptance of the above conditions.

Information: info@mc.public.lu

Ministry of Culture, Service de la création et de la promotion artistiques - Littérature et édition /Tel: 247-76616

If the English version deviates from the content of the French original, the French original applies in case of doubt.