

## Mo Siewcharran Prize 2025 – Terms and Conditions

1. This competition is being organised by Trapeze, an imprint of The Orion Publishing Group Limited (**Orion**) of Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0DZ. The following prizes will be awarded to the top three entries:

a. The winner of the first prize (the **Winner**) will receive:

- i. £2,500 prize money;
- ii. a one-hour online editorial session with a Trapeze editor;
- iii. an introductory meeting with at least 1 literary agent; and
- iv. a hamper of books.

b. The first runner-up will receive:

- i. £1,500 prize money;
- ii. a one-hour online editorial session with a Trapeze editor; and
- iii. a hamper of books.

c. The second runner-up will receive:

- i. £750 prize money; and
- ii. a hamper of books.

2. The Winner's entry will also be taken forward to an Orion Acquisitions Meeting and considered for full publication with an advance against royalties. Orion does not guarantee that the Winner will be offered a publishing contract. Orion reserves the right to consider any of the entries for publication.

3. The prizes will be awarded to the writers that submit the Proposals (as defined in Clause 6 below) for the best original English-language commercial non-fiction history proposal, judged against the Content Criteria (as described in Clause 4 below) from entrants who meet the Entry Criteria (as described in clause 5 below).

4. The entries will be judged on the basis of the following criteria (the **Content Criteria**). We're looking for a well-written, informative and page-turning piece of writing that shows a strong sense of

historical interpretation and storytelling. The proposal must explore historical events; however, it may also include personal narrative, memoir, mythology, legend or polemic writing. The proposal must be aimed at adults.

5. In order to be eligible for the competition, entrants must meet the following criteria (the '**Entry Criteria**'). Entrants must be aged 18 or over, be from a Black, Asian, mixed heritage or minority ethnic background, and be resident in the United Kingdom. Entrants must not have an agent and must be previously unpublished (that is, they must not have had any book previously published by a publisher in any format or be under a contract to have their work published). Self-published writers are eligible to enter the competition, provided that if they are offered a publishing contract they are willing to remove the relevant work from any retailers where it is currently selling.

6. Entrants to the competition must submit a proposal for a book that fulfils the Content Criteria consisting of (i) a proposal of no more than 10,000 words that includes an Introduction, Chapter Breakdown and Sample Writing (the '**Proposal**'). The Proposal must be in English.

7. Proposals must be submitted via Air Table. You can find more information on the competition landing page <https://www.thefuturebookshelf.co.uk/landing-page/the-mo-siewcharran-prize-2025/>. Entries may only be submitted between 12:01am GMT on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 11.59pm BST on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Any entries received outside these specified times and dates, and any entries that do not meet the requirements of these Terms and Conditions, will not be eligible for entry to the competition.

8. A longlist of up to ten Proposals (the '**Longlisted Proposals**') will be chosen from entries received in accordance with these Terms and Conditions by employees of Hachette UK. The Longlisted Proposals will be submitted to a panel of judges who will include Olivette Otele, Paula Akpan, Selina Brown, Sofia Akel, Katie Ogunsakin and Emma Bal (together the '**Judges**'). The Judges will select a shortlist of up to six Proposals (the '**Shortlisted Proposals**'). The Shortlisted Proposals will be announced on approximately 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The Winner and two runners-up will then be selected by the Judges from the Shortlisted Proposals. The Judges' decision is final.

9. By submitting their Proposal, each entrant undertakes and warrants that their Proposal consists of their own original work and will not infringe anyone else's intellectual property rights. If a third party's material is used, such as lyrics of a song, the entrant will secure the necessary permission and

will provide it to Orion on request. Each entrant further warrants that their Proposal will not contain any material which is defamatory, private or confidential or which is unlawful in any way. Any entry in breach of this clause will be disqualified from being considered for the competition at any stage.

10. The name of the Winner and the two runners-up will be announced at a prize ceremony hosted by Orion in London on a date to be determined in September 2025 (the '**Prize Ceremony**'). The authors of all Longlisted Proposals will be invited to attend the Prize Ceremony and Orion will cover their reasonable travel expenses for attending up to a maximum of £100 per person (on presentation of receipts). The names of the authors of the Longlisted Proposals may also be published on The Future Bookshelf and Hachette websites and in other media, including on social media.

11. The competition is not open to employees of Orion, their families, or to anyone personally connected to the competition or to the judges either themselves or through their families.

12. An entrant may only submit one entry. Further entries will be disqualified. Entries will not be accepted via agents, third parties or in bulk.

13. Orion is not responsible for contacting or responding to entrants who provide unclear or incomplete information or for entries that are lost, misdirected, delayed or destroyed.

14. Orion reserves the right to (i) cancel the competition and (ii) alter the details of the prizes or judging panels without notice but Orion will try to avoid creating any undue disappointment. No cash alternative or other alternatives to the prizes will be provided.

15. Any personal data submitted by entrants, including their names and email addresses (the 'Information'), will be used by Orion (who is the Data Controller) for the purposes of this competition, including without limitation for the purpose of judging the entries and providing the prizes, in accordance with these Terms and Conditions and in accordance with Orion's Privacy Notice which can be found [here](#). The Information will be deleted within six months of the announcement of the Winner.

16. No purchase is necessary to enter the competition.

17. By entering the competition, each entrant agrees to be bound by these Terms and Conditions.

18. These Terms and Conditions and any disputes or claims (including non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of these Terms and Conditions shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of England, whose courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction.