

The Flock Lit Mag Submission Guidelines

Please ensure you read all submission guidelines carefully prior to submitting. Any piece that does not conform to these guidelines will be declined automatically. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us by e-mailing theflocklitmag@gmail.com

We are keen to support those who may not have experience in being published before, and therefore want to make the process of submitting work as approachable as possible.

Our yearly anthology theme is **Home**. All submissions windows this year will have the same set theme. We are keeping interpretation for this as broad as possible, and encourage alternate, unique, and interesting interpretations heavily!

Please be patient regarding response times, as *The Flock* is entirely student managed and run. We will make sure to contact you as soon as we can!

General Guidelines

AI: We will not accept any submissions which are generated in part or full by AI. This goes for both art and writing. Any piece which we suspect has used generative AI in its creation will be subject to scrutiny, and may be run through an AI detector or rejected on principle.

Theme: Ensure that the piece that you're submitting generally **conforms to the set theme** for the current submissions period. We will accept abstract/alternative/creative interpretations, in fact, we encourage it! If in doubt, submit anyway!

Sensitive Subject Matter: We will allow profanity, sensitive subject matter, and explorations which venture outside of what may be considered 'family friendly'.

However, keep in mind that all submissions are read by a person on the other side of the screen. We will not accept works which are derogatory, hateful, or bigoted, and may choose to decline works which do not handle extreme subject matter with due care.

Please provide content warnings for sensitive subject matter where possible at the front of your piece, EX. cw: death.

Simultaneous Submissions: We accept simultaneous submissions. If your piece is accepted elsewhere, please let us know so we can pull it from our own pending submissions.

Outside Submissions: Though we are a student run press, we will accept submissions from far and wide, no need to be a student at the University of South Wales or any other university to submit!

Physical Publication: All pieces submitted which make it into the final issue for their submissions period will also be considered for our physical printed anthology at the end of the academic year. For our third annual submissions period, **all pieces submitted will be exclusively considered for physical publication.** We will communicate this in our submissions window callout.

Specific Guidelines

Micro Fiction: Pieces cannot exceed **500 words**. Submit up to three pieces per submission period. Please submit pieces on a single document.

Flash Fiction: Pieces cannot exceed **1,000 words**. Submit up to two pieces per submission period. Please submit pieces on a single document.

General Prose (short story, non-fiction, etc.): Pieces at or under **2,000 words**. Submit up to two pieces per submission period. Send as separate documents.

Poetry: Individual poem length cannot exceed **two pages**, this includes prose poetry. Submit up to three pieces per submission period. Please submit pieces on a single document.

Art/Photography: Submit up to five pieces per submission period. Ensure all images are in the highest quality possible. Traditional art should be scanned rather than photographed where possible.

Formatting Guidelines

Font, Size, Spacing: Make sure all pieces are **12-point, double spaced**, and in a **standard font** (Arial or Times New Roman)

Piece Titles: Piece titles must be placed at the top of the work, along with author name.

We will publish pieces under an alias if the author wishes. All untitled pieces will be given the name 'untitled' by staff.

File Titles: Please title all submissions using this format:

FirstName_LastName_PieceTitle. If submitting more than one piece in a single document, use the name of the first piece presented. Title all email subject lines using the same format.

Accepted File Types: Text submissions must be in .pdf .doc or .docx. All visual submissions must be either .png or .jpeg.

General Info

Issues: *The Flock* plans to publish three issues throughout the year, two digital issues and one physical anthology. This physical anthology will contain choice pieces from the two digital issues as well as new pieces from a final submissions period.

Submissions Windows: We will have three submissions windows from Fall 2025 - Spring 2026. All submissions window dates will be updated on our website and social media.

Communications: All questions/general communications should be forwarded to theflocklitmag@gmail.com

Thank you for your interest in being a part of our first few issues, with hopefully many more to come! This is the first activity USW has had in the realm of Student Literary Magazines since 2018, and our first time ever as *The Flock*. As exciting as this is, keep in mind that we are learning and adapting as we go! We're eager to show you what we've got, and more importantly, for you to show us what *you*'ve got! We look forward to reading your submissions.