

Artform-Specific Career Stage Guidance

Please read these descriptors carefully and nominate the career stage that most closely fits where you are in your practice right now. For each cell below, applicants at this stage typically demonstrate one or more of the indicators listed; you do not need to demonstrate every descriptor.

Artform	Emerging (4 fellowships)	Mid-career (3 fellowships)	Established (3 fellowships)
<p>Writers</p> <p><i>In scope: fiction, poetry, and narrative non-fiction.</i></p> <p><i>Not in scope: academic and scholarly non-fiction (textbooks, instructional or reference works).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One full-length work published (novel, story collection, poetry collection, narrative non-fiction). Self-published works are accepted. • Five or more short-form works published in literary journals, anthologies, or publications with editorial oversight. • A demonstrable body of public-facing work in performance, spoken word, or oral storytelling traditions, evidenced by at least five featured engagements at recognised festivals, venues, programs, or community-recognised cultural contexts. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander oral storytelling traditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more full-length works published, at least one of which must be by a trade or small press. • A sustained body of public-facing work in performance, spoken word, or oral storytelling traditions evidenced by over 20 featured engagements at recognised festivals, venues, programs, or community-recognised cultural contexts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or more full-length works published over a sustained career, at least two of which must be by a trade or small press. • A major literary award win (Miles Franklin, Stella, NSW Literary Awards, Prime Minister's Literary Awards, or equivalent). • A long-term dedicated career and profession in performance, spoken word, or oral storytelling traditions, demonstrated by sustained public-facing practice over many years and recognition within professional or community contexts.
<p>Illustrators</p> <p><i>In scope: illustration in literary and narrative contexts: picture books, graphic novels and comics, illustrated non-fiction, and editorial illustration in literary or comparable outlets.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One full-length illustrated book published (picture book, graphic novel, illustrated non-fiction, comics collection). Self-published works are accepted. • Five or more illustrated works published or commissioned in contexts with editorial oversight. • A demonstrable body of public-facing illustration work: at least one solo exhibition or three group exhibitions at recognised galleries, festivals, art venues, or as part of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more full-length illustrated books published, at least one of which must be by a trade or small press. Recognised cultural arts programs that produce illustrated publications with editorial oversight also count toward this requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four or more full-length illustrated books over a sustained career, at least two of which must be by a trade or small press, or through recognised cultural arts programs producing illustrated publications with editorial oversight. • A major award win (CBCA Book of the Year, or equivalent).

<p><i>Not in scope: pure fine arts, commercial design without literary or narrative dimension, and illustration for screen (film, television, or streaming animation).</i></p>	<p>cultural arts programs, or through a published serialised comic or substantial illustration practice with editorial oversight or sustained audience.</p>		
<p>Playwrights</p> <p><i>In scope: writing for live theatrical performance: plays for stage, musical theatre books and libretti, and other forms of theatrical writing.</i></p> <p><i>Not in scope: screenwriting for film, television, or streaming.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One full-length play professionally produced by a theatre company, festival, or recognised independent venue. • Two or more short-form works produced in professional or recognised independent contexts. • Substantial engagement with one or more recognised playwright development programs (e.g., APT, MerringongX, Griffin development programs, ATYP playwright streams). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two or more full-length plays professionally produced (any combination of mainstage, festival, or recognised independent contexts). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained body of professionally produced work (four or more full-length productions). • A major industry award win (David Williamson Prize, Nick Enright Prize for Playwriting, or equivalent).

Note: career stage is self-nominated by applicants. The assessment panel may flag, during individual scoring, where an applicant appears to be in the wrong career stage AND would be rated highly at a different stage; in those cases the application may be reassigned by the panel Chair and re-scored at the new stage before the panel meeting. Self-publishing is accepted at all tiers, with the trade or small press requirements above applying at mid-career and established.