

**MONAGHAN
COUNTY
LIBRARIES**

**EUGENE
McCABE**

**AWARD
GUIDELINES**

**& ENTRY
RULES**

**SHORT
STORY
AWARD
2026**

MN



Comhairle Contae
Mhuineacháin
Monaghan
County Council

EUGENE McCABE SHORT STORY AWARD 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Eugene McCabe Short Story Award is a new literary prize for unpublished short story fiction in English. Established in 2026 by Monaghan County Libraries, the award honours the legacy of Eugene McCabe, renowned novelist, short story writer, playwright, and television screenwriter, who lived in County Monaghan. This inaugural award is delivered in partnership with Eugene McCabe's family, the Department of English Language and Literature at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, and The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig, County Monaghan. The competition will launch on 7 July, marking Eugene McCabe's birthday.

Please read these guidelines before beginning the submission process. Submission of an entry is taken as acceptance of the rules.

ELIGIBILITY

Employees of Monaghan County Council, University of Limerick, Irish Writers Centre or The Tyrone Guthrie Centre are not eligible to enter the competition.

GUIDELINES

Entrants must be aged 18 years or over on 30 September 2026.

Entrants must either have been born on the island of Ireland, hold Irish nationality, or be long-term residents of Ireland. Shortlisted writers may be required to provide proof of nationality and/or residency.

The award is for an unpublished short story written in English. The story must not be published in print, online, or in any form, in any language, before 1 December 2026. Stories must be original works of fiction that have been created by the entrant. The use of artificial intelligence tools, systems, or models to generate, draft, rewrite, or substantially edit the story is strictly prohibited.

Only one entry per person is permitted.

The maximum word count is 3,000 words, excluding the title.

The winning story will be published exactly as submitted, with no opportunity for entrants to make revisions.

The author's name should only appear on the entry form. Please ensure that your name or any identifying

biographical information are not included within the story itself.

HOW TO ENTER

You may enter the competition by post or by online submission. Details as follows:

ENTRY BY POST

All entries must be accompanied by a printed entry form. Entry forms can be downloaded from monaghan.ie/library or requested by emailing moncolib@monaghancoco.ie

Entries must be typed, double-spaced, size 12 font and printed on one side of A4 paper only. Each page should be numbered.

Two typed copies of the short story must be submitted with the printed entry form.

Entries should be posted to:

Eugene McCabe Short Story Award
Monaghan County Libraries
98 Avenue, Clones
Co. Monaghan
H23 RW70

You should retain a copy of your entry because submissions will not be returned.

Monaghan County Libraries will not acknowledge receipt of postal entries and does not accept any responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.

EUGENE McCABE SHORT AWARD MCCABE STORY 2026

ENTRY BY ONLINE SUBMISSION

Entries must be submitted using the online entry form, which is [available here](#)

All entries must complete the online entry form before uploading the submission.

Entries must be uploaded as PDF or PDF(A) files only.

Entries must be typed and double-spaced.
Each page should be numbered.

OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

Opening date: 07 July 2026

Closing date: 30 September 2026
(11.59pm in any time zone)

No entries will be considered if submitted after the closing date.

JUDGING

Entries will be judged anonymously.

The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the judging process or its outcomes.

PERMISSIONS AND COPYRIGHT

By entering the competition, entrants confirm that their submission is an original work and does not infringe on any copyright, trademark, or other rights.

The author retains worldwide copyright of their story. However, by submitting an entry, entrants grant Monaghan County Libraries the unrestricted right to publish, promote, and display the winning and shortlisted stories for competition-related purposes, including online and in an anthology.

Winners and shortlisted entrants agree to be identified as the author of their work for publicity and promotional purposes.

COMMUNICATIONS

For any queries regarding entries or eligibility not addressed here, please email **moncolib@monaghancoco.ie** for clarification before submitting your entry.

Authors of winning and shortlisted stories will be contacted in advance of the award announcement and will be invited to attend the Eugene McCabe Short Story Award night. Monaghan County Libraries reserves the right to arrange a reading from the award-winning work on the night, in consultation with the author.

Winning and shortlisted writers will also be expected, where possible, to participate in promotional activities, including social media.

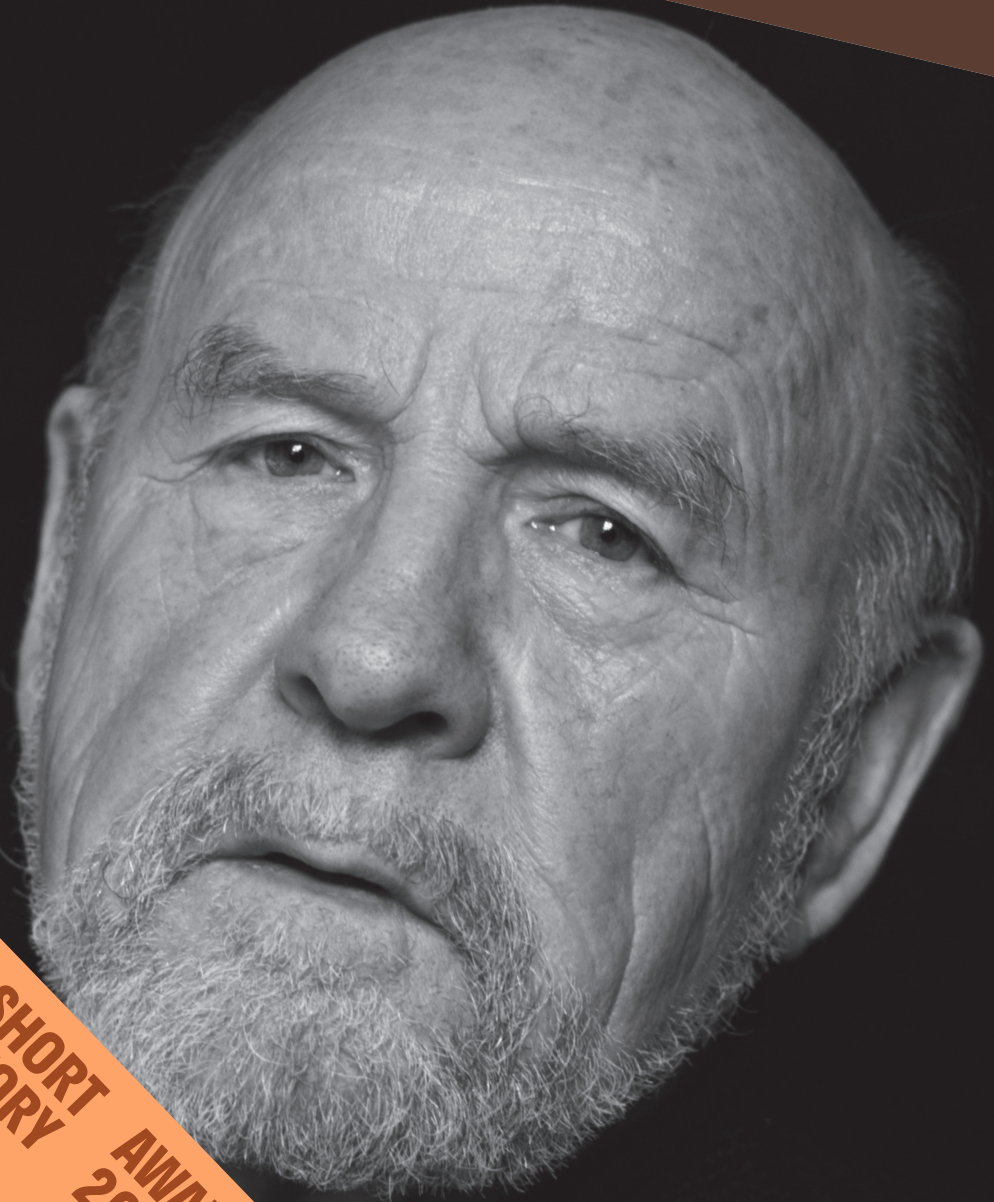
PRIZES

The winning entry will receive €1,000 **and** a bursary to attend The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghamakerrig, County Monaghan **and** a bursary to be mentored under the Irish Writer's Centre's 'One-to-One Mentoring' programme.

Shortlisted stories will receive €300 each.

DATA PROTECTION

Personal data will be used solely for the administration of the competition and will not be shared with third parties except as required for judging or prizes. If you have any questions regarding the processing of your personal data, you can contact Monaghan County Council's Data Protection Officer by email: **dataprotectionofficer@monaghancoco.ie** by phone: (047) 73765 or by post: Monaghan County Council, County Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, H18 YT50.



**EUGENE
McCABE** **SHORT AWARD
STORY 2026**