



The International Proverse Poetry Prize 2026

(Single Poems)

(Closing date: 30 June 2026) (Late entries possible from 1 July-11 July 2026. An additional entry fee is payable). All dates, Hong Kong time.

General enquiries to: info@proversepublishing.com

1. Entry through our submissions manager, Submittable is available from no later than 7 May 2026. proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit
2. If at all possible, please enter through Submittable. However, if this does not work for you, there is a further option to enter through PayPal paypal.me/ProverseHongKong
3. Hong Kong entrants may, if they wish, submit directly to Proverse Hong Kong (see pages 6-8 below).

SUMMARY

Entry is open to all aged 18 or above, irrespective of residence, citizenship, nationality, or place of birth. New, emerging, experienced and established writers are all welcome.

Topic: a) on any subject or theme chosen by the writer; OR b) “**THE STORM**” (interpreted in any way the writer may choose).

Length: Generally speaking, no more than 30 lines (not counting title or blank lines)

Style, form and format: free choice.

Backstory and/or notes on behalf of the international readership (if appropriate)

Language: English (may be a translation into English)

Must be previously unpublished in English.

1st prize: USD100.00 OR £80.00 OR HK\$750.00; **2nd prize:** USD45.00 OR £35.00 OR HK\$330.00; **3rd prizes** (up to four winners): USD20.00 OR £15.00 OR HK\$150.00 each.

Prize-winning entries will be published on the website, proversepublishing.com and/or in a paperback and/or Ebook anthology and/or in a Proverse E-newsletter no later than one year after the closing date for entries.

Selected entries may be published in a paperback and/or Ebook anthology and/or in a Proverse E-newsletter no later than one year after the closing date for entries.

Number of entries per entrant: no limit.

Prizes permissible: No entrant may win more than one prize among the 1st-, 2nd- or 3rd- prizes in any year.

Number of poems per entrant that may be awarded a place in the anthology: no limit.

Repeat entry of previously-entered poem: Please provide a note stating what changes (if any) you have made to any poem you have already entered for the Proverse Poetry Prize (single poems) in a previous edition of the prize, as well as the year of entry.

Entry fee per poem:

a) By Submittable, US\$14.00 OR £12.00. proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit

b) By PayPal, US\$14.00 OR £12.00. paypal.me/ProverseHongKong

c) Directly to Proverse Hong Kong as indicated below, HK\$100.00.

Late entry fee per poem:

a) By Submittable, US\$18.00 OR £16.00. proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit

b) By PayPal, US\$18.00 OR £16.00. paypal.me/ProverseHongKong

c) Directly to Proverse Hong Kong as indicated below, HK\$120.00.

Public announcement of results scheduled for November 2026. (1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-prize winners (if any) and winners of a place in the anthology (if any) will be informed before this.)

The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into about the results.

Hong Kong (only) entries: For 1) full details, rules, terms and conditions of entry and 2) choice of alternative submission information, please see below.

FOR ALL ENTRANTS: FULL DETAILS FOLLOW

**The International Proverse Poetry Prize 2026
(Single Poems)**

This annual international prize, established in 2016, is open to all who are aged 18 or above, whatever their residence, citizenship, nationality or place of birth. New, emerging, experienced and established writers are all welcome.

You are invited to enter in English ONE OR MORE poems written by yourself, previously unpublished in English, in which you own the copyright.

Rules, Terms & Conditions of Entry (with full details)

By entering the competition, you certify you are at least 18 years old and accept the rules, terms and conditions in this document as a whole.

You may enter a poem / poems you originally wrote in English and/or a poem/ poems you originally wrote in another language, which is/are previously unpublished in English and in which you own the copyright.

You may enter a poem / poems written by you, which is/are previously published in a language other than English, and in which you retain the copyright.

If another person has translated your poem(s) for you, you must acknowledge this and confirm that you own the copyright in the translation.

If another person has edited your poem(s) for you, you must acknowledge this and confirm that you own the copyright in your poem(s).

Proverse Hong Kong disclaims responsibility for any misrepresentation on the part of each and every entrant at any time.

Poems may be (a) on ANY subject or theme CHOSEN BY YOURSELF, OR (b) on the subject or theme, "THE STORM", interpreted in any way you choose.

You may use any form, style or genre.

Poems should be no more than 30 lines each, excluding the title and any blank lines. However, if the judges so decide, any submitted poem of more than 30 lines may be considered an eligible entry on the same footing as submitted poems of 30 lines or fewer.

Please do not include photographs or illustrations.

An **ENTRY FEE** needs to be paid for each poem. An entry fee once paid may not be reimbursed and you may not withdraw a poem from the competition once you have entered it.

Entry fee per poem:

- a) Through our online submissions manager, US\$14.00 *OR* £12.00. From proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit
- b) By PayPal, US\$14.00 *OR* £12.00. [paypal.me/ProverseHongKong](https://www.paypal.me/ProverseHongKong)
- c) Directly to Proverse Hong Kong as indicated below, HK\$100.00.

Please NB option (c) is only for Hong Kong entrants who wish to pay in HK\$. (Please see “Additional Notes for Hong Kong Entries only” below.)

Late entry fee per poem (1-11 July, Hong Kong time):

- a) Through our online submissions manager, US\$18.00 *OR* £16.00. From proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit
- b) By PayPal, US\$18.00 *OR* £16.00. [paypal.me/ProverseHongKong](https://www.paypal.me/ProverseHongKong)
- c) Directly to Proverse Hong Kong as indicated below, HK\$120.00.

Please NB option (c) is only for Hong Kong entrants who wish to pay in HK\$. (Please see “Additional Notes for Hong Kong Entries only” below.)

THE AWARDS AND AWARD EVENTS

Cash prizes are offered as follows: 1st prize; USD100.00 *OR* £80.00 *OR* HK\$750.00; 2nd prize: USD45.00 *OR* £35.00 *OR* HK\$330.00; 3rd prizes (up to four winners): USD20.00 *OR* £15.00 *OR* HK\$150.00.

If, in the sole judgement of the judges, there are no poems of a high enough quality for any or each of the prizes to be awarded, the prize or prizes will not be awarded. Entry fees will not be returned but put towards the continued running of the competition.

You are advised to be careful when submitting your poem(s) as no editing is permitted prior to judging. If you really wish to edit your poem(s) which you have already submitted for this award, please enter the edited poem(s) as new entries, explaining at the bottom of each poem that you wish it/them to be considered a replacement for the poem(s) already submitted.

The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into about the results.

If in the sole judgement of the judges, sufficient high-quality poems are submitted, a **PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE ANTHOLOGY** will be published by Proverse Hong Kong in a paperback available for online purchase and/or as an E-book available for online purchase, no later than one year after the closing date for entries and generally earlier. Your name will be published with your poem(s) unless you explicitly state at the time of entering your poem(s) that you do not wish your name to appear. Depending on the editorial policy from year to year, you may be asked to submit a brief biography and / or a headshot of yourself to be included (possibly edited for length and/or style, as the editors may judge appropriate) in the anthology. You may be invited but not required to provide a back-story for your poem(s) and/or notes to explain certain references, vocabulary or cultural background, if you judge it would be helpful for a broad and international readership.

No poet may win more than one prize among the first-, second- or third-prizes in any year but it is permissible for more than one poem by a single poet to be awarded a place in the Proverse Poetry Prize anthology.

If in the sole judgement of the judges, not enough high-quality poems are submitted to justify the publication of an anthology in any year, first-, second-, or third-prize winning poems (if any) will be published online (e.g. on the Proverse website, and/or the Proverse facebook page (of which the present URL is www.facebook.com/ProversePress), and/or in the Proverse ENewsletter and/or similar) no later than one year after the closing date for entries.

The 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-prizes (if any) will be awarded at the same time as the winning poems are published or shortly afterwards. However, if an event is scheduled to take place, at which the anthology in which the prize-winning work appears, is to be launched, the awards will be presented at the event to those winners who attend the event or shortly afterwards to those winners who cannot attend. If the event is cancelled or postponed for any reason, then the awards will be given out shortly after the date previously scheduled for launch of the anthology in which the prize-winning work is published and no later than one year after the closing date for entries.

1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-prize-winners (if any) and those who win a place in the anthology (if any) will be informed individually about their result. All are requested to keep their result confidential until Proverse Hong Kong has announced the full results as explained elsewhere in these Rules, Terms and Conditions of Entry. Those whose work is not awarded a 1st, 2nd or 3rd prize or a place in the anthology will be informed individually as soon as the judges have made their decision and certainly before the public announcement of results. This will be done either as an attachment to an email message sent from proverse@netvigator.com and/or through the submission manager, submittable.com as the Proverse Poetry Prize Administrators may decide. Please ensure you are alert to messages from each of these sources.

First-, second- and third-prize winners (if any), as well as those who have won a place in the Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology (if any) may receive **INVITATIONS TO ATTEND EVENTS IN HONG KONG** at which a) the results will be announced; and/or b) (when the anthology (if any) will be launched; and winner will themselves be responsible for all arrangements (including informing themselves about and complying with any health protocols) and costs of attendance, including but not limited to a modest event fee (in 2026, this may be HK\$198 (= approx US\$26.00)), visas, international and / or local transport, health and travel insurance, accommodation and meals, etc. If 1st-, 2nd- or 3rd-prize winners are not able to attend, they may be invited to send a brief message and/or video-recorded reading of their winning poem which the organisers will consider for reading out, displaying, or playing at the event; but no promise is made that this will be done.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS scheduled for November 2026. (1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-prize winners (if any) and winners of a place in the anthology (if any) will be informed before this.) **PUBLICATION OF THE PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE ANTHOLOGY 2026** (“Mingled Voices 11”) (if any) is scheduled for April/May 2027.

YOU WILL RETAIN COPYRIGHT in your poem(s). By entering for The Proverse Poetry Prize, you unconditionally grant to Proverse Hong Kong a royalty-free fee-free irrevocable perpetual non-exclusive worldwide and sub-licensable licence exercisable at any time by Proverse Hong Kong in its sole and entire discretion, to publish your poem(s) including but not limited to (A) online including but not limited to the website proversepublishing.com and/or on the Proverse Facebook page (presently www.facebook.com/ProversePress) and/or in the Proverse Hong Kong ENewsletter and/or (B) in a Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology as described above. Proverse Hong Kong will own the copyright in any such Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology and its reproduction and licensing rights.

By entering for The Proverse Poetry Prize, you agree not to publish or permit to be published your entered poem(s) in any way until, either, Proverse Hong Kong has published your poem(s) online and/or in a Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology as described above, or until you receive a communication from Proverse Hong Kong sent either as an attachment from the email address, proverse@netvigator.com, or by means of the submission manager, submittable.com (as the Proverse Poetry Prize Administrators will decide), that your entered poem(s) is not a winner of the first, second or a third prize and /or will not be awarded a place in the Anthology. If your poem(s) is/are included in the Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology, you agree to credit Proverse Hong Kong if the work is subsequently reproduced online or in print.

EDITING AND PUBLICATION: If the Proverse Hong Kong editors have any query about the text and/or layout of any poem to be published, Proverse Hong Kong will contact the author, either as an email attachment from the Email account, proverse@netvigator.com, or through submittable.com and the author will respond to the best of his or her ability within ten days. Entrants agree that, if no response is received, the Proverse Hong Kong editors may use their best judgement to make any amendment to the text and/or layout that they deem necessary.

If you wish to use a “**PEN-NAME**” (which shall be a specific formulation of your legal name -- for example, if your name is Jane Mary Brown, your pen-name could be JM Brown, Jane M Brown or J Mary Brown), please advise Proverse Hong Kong about this explicitly at the time you

enter your work. Please note that, in general, the use of a “pen-name” is discouraged as it can lead to confusion.

Proverse Hong Kong will be responsible for and have the final decision in relation to all aspects of preparation of print-ready and/or publication-ready files and their delivery for printing and/or publication to include but not being limited to publishing project management and scheduling, copy-editing, layout design and the setting, cover design, proof-reading and delivery of files in appropriate format for printing and/or publication.

PRIZE MONEY

a) will be sent by PayPal OR by US\$ cheque (if cheques are still being used at that time) as Proverse Hong Kong will decide and Proverse Hong Kong disclaims responsibility for any PayPal or bank charges or fees or for the rate or cost of currency conversion.

b) The following exceptions apply. In the case of entries from Hong Kong, a HK\$ cheque will be sent (if cheques are still being used at that time). In the case of entries from the United Kingdom, a £ pounds sterling cheque will be sent (if cheques are still being used at that time). If the prize-money is sent by cheque, this will be by registered mail. Proverse Hong Kong expressly disclaims responsibility for the non-receipt of any such cheque and will not replace any cheque that is reported not to have been received. If a cheque cannot be paid because the winner has provided incorrect details, a new cheque cannot be issued.

c) Prize money may also be paid by internet bank transfer. Proverse Hong Kong will pay all originating charges up to a total of HK\$100.00 and the recipient will pay any and all receiving charges. The rate of exchange will be that applicable at the time the conversion is made.

d) If any winner of a cash prize does not reply within 30 days to any request from Proverse Hong Kong about the address to which a cash prize is to be sent and/or details about how a cheque is to be made out (e. g. the name of the payee), then the prize will be regarded as undeliverable and will not be awarded. The sum not paid out will be put towards the continued administration of the Proverse Poetry Prize.

SPECIAL CASE (TWO AUTHORS): If you wish to enter a poem which you wrote with another person, each of you should enter the poem, noting your joint authorship and the name of both authors, complete the entry form and send in the entry fee. If the poem is awarded a prize, the prize will be shared equally between the two of you. You will be asked to nominate one of you to receive the prize and that person will apportion the prize accordingly. If the poem is chosen to appear in the anthology, both names will appear as authors.

It is regretted that no correspondence can be entered into in relation to individual entries.

By entering for The Proverse Poetry Prize (single poems) YOU AGREE TO AND ARE LEGALLY BOUND BY the Rules, Terms and Conditions of Entry (with full details) set out above and below. If there is any discrepancy between the information on the proversepublishing.com website and that available elsewhere, the former shall prevail.

JUDGING will take place during the period, mid-July to end August 2026. To preserve the integrity of the judging process and to keep the focus on entrants and their entered poems, the judges’ names are not announced.

PRESENTATION: Please put the title of your poem(s) at the head of your poem(s) and please do not include your name as entries are considered anonymously. Please ensure the title at the head of your poem(s) is the same as the title you give elsewhere in the entry process.

~~~WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR WORK!~~~

**PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE (SINGLE POEMS) 2026**  
**ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR HONG KONG ENTRIES ONLY**

If at all possible, please enter through the Proverse submission manager,  
[proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit](http://proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit)

Entry is available from [proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit](http://proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit) no later than 7 May.

But please note that the submission manager cannot accept HK\$.

If the submission manager does not work for you OR you want to pay the fee in HK\$, you may enter by one of two ways as follows:

A: 1) Pay the fee (HK\$100.00 for each poem you submit; HK\$120.00 for each poem you submit as a late entry) by ATM, over the counter, or online transfer\* into the "Proverse Hong Kong" HSBC bank account in Hong Kong, account number 808-459341-292

A: 2) And then send an email to <[proverse@netvigator.com](mailto:proverse@netvigator.com)> to arrive by the closing date for entries, with the following attachments at one time:

(i) evidence of the bank transaction;

(ii) each of your entered poems as a separate Word file (each with the title of the poem only and not your name);

(iii) a cover page with:

a) the title of each of your entered poems;

b) your name as it appears on your Hong Kong ID card OR (for non-Hong Kong ID card holders) on your passport (naming the country which issued the passport);

c) your email address, phone number and mailing address in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

d) the following statement:

“My entered work was written by me in English / translated by myself into English / translated by ..... [please choose which of the options given applies and insert the name of your translator if any]. I have read and understood the full details, Rules, Terms and Conditions of the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026 as they appear above and below and as they appear on the Proverse Hong Kong website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com). By entering for the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026, I accept and agree to be bound by the full Rules, Terms and Conditions of Entry, as set out in these places. If there is any discrepancy between the information on the [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com) website and that on the Proverse page at [submittable.com](http://submittable.com), the former shall prevail. I confirm a) that I am eligible to enter this competition and b) the work I have entered is eligible to be entered into this competition.”

e) your signature and the date of signing.

(iv) a brief biography which may be used (possibly edited for length or style) as a basis for an entry in the Anthology (if any).

(v) a back-story for your poem(s) and/or notes to explain certain references and/or terms and/or background if you judge it would be helpful for a broad and international readership.

**OR**

B: Prepare

1) a HK\$ cheque, drawn on a Hong Kong bank, made out to “Proverse Hong Kong” (total HK\$100.00 for each poem you submit; HK\$120.00 for each poem you submit as a late entry)

2) a hard copy of your entry/ies.

3) a cover page with:

a) the title of each of your entered poems;

b) your name as it appears on your Hong Kong ID card OR (for non-Hong Kong ID card holders) on your passport (naming the country which issued the passport);

c) your email address, phone number and mailing address in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

d) the following statement:

“My entered work was written by me in English / translated by myself into English / translated by ..... [please choose which of the options given applies and insert the name of your translator if any]. I have read and understood the full details, Rules, Terms and Conditions of the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026 as they appear above and below and as they appear on the Proverse Hong Kong website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com). By entering for the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026, I accept and agree to be bound by the full Rules, Terms and Conditions of Entry, as set out in these places. If there is any discrepancy between the information on the [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com) website and that on the Proverse page at [submittable.com](http://submittable.com), the former shall prevail. I confirm a) that I am eligible to enter this competition and b) the work I have entered is eligible to be entered into this competition.”

e) your signature and the date of signing.

(iv) a brief biography which may be used (possibly edited for length or style) as a basis for an entry in the Anthology (if any).

(v) a back-story for your poem(s) and/or notes to explain certain references and/or terms and/or background if you judge it would be helpful for a broad and international readership.

Then post all these, with a soft file in Word of your entered poem(s) on a non-returnable CD or thumb-stick, to the following address, to arrive no later than 30 June 2026:

Proverse Hong Kong, ‘Attn the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems)’, P.O. Box 259, Tung Chung Post Office, Lantau, NT, Hong Kong

IMPORTANT: There should be no personally identifying information on the same side of the page as any of your entered text.

We regret we cannot enter into correspondence about your entry/ies.

~~~WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR WORK!~~~

PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE (SINGLE POEMS) 2026
ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR THOSE PAYING BY PAYPAL

If at all possible, please enter through the Proverse submission manager, Submittable.

Entry is available from proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit no later than 7 May.

If Submittable does not work for you OR you want to pay the fee by PayPal you may enter as follows:

A: 1) Pay the fee by PayPal (US\$14.00; OR £12.00 sterling; OR Euros16.00). (Fees for late entry by PayPal are as follows: US\$18.00; OR £16.00 sterling; OR Euros 20.00 for each poem you submit.)

A: 2) And then send an email to <proverse@netvigator.com> to arrive by 30 June 2026 (11 July for late entries), with the following attachments at one time:

(i) evidence of the PayPal transaction;

(ii) each of your entered poems as a separate Word (but not pdf) file (each with your poem’s title but not your name);

(iii) a cover page with:

a) the title of each of your entered poems;

b) your name as it appears on your PayPal payment;

c) your email address, phone number and accurate mailing address;

d) the following statement:

“My entered work was written by me in English / translated by myself into English / translated by [please choose which of the options given applies and insert the name of your translator if any]. I have read and understood the full details, Rules, Terms and Conditions of the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026 as they appear above and below and

as they appear on the Proverse Hong Kong website. By entering for the Proverse Poetry Prize (Single Poems) 2026, I accept and agree to be bound by the full Rules, Terms and Conditions of Entry, as set out in these places. If there is any discrepancy between the information on the proversepublishing.com website and that on the Proverse page at submittable.com, the former shall prevail. I confirm a) that I am eligible to enter this competition and b) the work I have entered is eligible to be entered into this competition.”

e) your signature and the date of signing.

(iv) a brief biography which may be used (possibly edited for length or style) as a basis for an entry in the Anthology (if any).

(v) a back-story for your poem(s) and/or notes to explain certain references and/or terms and/or background if you judge it would be helpful for a broad and international readership.

IMPORTANT: There should be no personally identifying information on the same side of the page as any of your entered text.

We regret we cannot enter into correspondence about your entry/ies.

~~~WE LOOK FORWARD TO READING YOUR WORK!~~~

*If you wish to pay "Proverse Hong Kong" directly into their HSBC bank account in Hong Kong

- Direct deposit into the "Proverse Hong Kong" bank account number 808-459341-292 at the following bank and branch: HSBC, Number 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong. --
- PLEASE NOTE: This direct deposit method should attract no banking fees whatsoever. However, if bank fees are charged, these are payable in full by the Author-Entrant directly to the bank and should not be deducted from the Entry Fee. If this condition is not met, your entry will be disqualified;
- HKD cheque, drawn on a Hong Kong bank (payable to "Proverse Hong Kong");
- by(telegraphic/online) transfer to the "Proverse Hong Kong" bank account number 808-459341-292 at Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong --
- PLEASE NOTE: If you submit your Entry Fee by telegraphic transfer to the Proverse Hong Kong bank account in Hong Kong, you need to remit the Entry Fee plus HKD75.00 to cover Hong Kong receiving bank charges. If the originating bank also applies charges, these will be at the expense of the Entrant and should be settled by the Entrant at the time s/he remits the Entry Fee(s) to Proverse Hong Kong. If either or both of these conditions are not met, the entry will be disqualified.
- PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO IBAN CODE FOR REMITTANCES TO HSBC Hong Kong. THE SWIFT CODE IS "HSBCHKHHHKH" (11 capital letters with no spaces)

TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US

Request our E-Newsletter.

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Follow news and conversation: <twitter.com/Proversebooks>

Visit our web-page from time to time: proversepublishing.com.

Subscribe to our youtube channel: youtube.com/@ProversePublishing

Visit the Proverse page on the Chinese University of Hong Kong Press website from time to time.

(New publications are released normally about twice a year, in April and November.)

<https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk>

TO SUPPORT US

- Read and/or purchase the books we publish (Most are available through online retailers including amazon as it operates in different countries, as well as by order from bookshops in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Canada and Andorra.)
- Talk about our books and authors and/or recommend them to your friends
- Comment on our books and authors on amazon or in any other public place.
- Introduce our awards to those whom you believe would be interested.

**WE AND THE AUTHORS WE PUBLISH
(PERHAPS IN TIME INCLUDING YOURSELF)
VALUE YOUR ACTIVE INTEREST AND SUPPORT!**



Proverse Hong Kong

www.proversepublishing.com