



Key West Literary Seminar | Awards & Financial Assistance

Joyce Horton Johnson Fiction Award • Marianne Russo Award • Scotti Merrill Memorial Award
Application Guidelines

The Key West Literary Seminar offers three annual awards to emerging writers of exceptional merit living in the United States. The Joyce Horton Johnson Fiction Award, the Marianne Russo Award, and the Scotti Merrill Memorial Award each provide full tuition to our January Seminar and Writers' Workshop Program, round-trip airfare, seven nights' lodging, support for living expenses while in Key West, and the opportunity to appear on stage during the Seminar. For your application to be considered, we will need the following:

1. Manuscript submission:

Please include a sample of your writing, no more than 15 pages or 10 poems. Submitted work must be unpublished at the time of submission, and your name may not appear on the manuscript. Note that the Joyce Johnson Award is for fiction only. The Russo and Merrill Awards may go to writing of any genre.

2. References:

Please provide us with the names and email addresses of two people who are familiar with your writing and are willing to speak about you and your work. If possible, at least one of these should be a teacher. (Please tell these people we may be contacting them.)

3. Cover letter:

In approximately 500 words, tell us about yourself, your interests, your educational background, and your writing. Tell us why you want to attend the Seminar and/or Workshop Program and what you hope to gain from the experience. Please tell us how you heard about KWLS and which writers' workshop you would like to attend. Include your name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number. Also list the names and email addresses of your references.

4. (optional):

If you wish to be considered for limited financial assistance, please also answer the questions in #2 of the financial assistance application guidelines on page two. Applying for financial assistance will not affect your application for one of our three named awards.

Delivery:

Please send your completed application package by email to mail@kwls.org. Your cover letter and manuscript submission should be attached as two separate word documents. Please use file names in the following format: "Lastname_Firstname_submission.doc" and "Lastname_Firstname_cover.doc." Do not include your name within the body of the manuscript.

Deadline:

All application materials must be received by September 30, 2010. We will announce the winners no later than November 15, 2010. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

About the judging process:

Applications are judged in a two-tier process. In the initial round the judge(s) will consider your manuscript, cover letter, and references, giving weight to each, with primary weight given to the manuscript. The strongest applications will go on to the final round, where a new judge(s) will see only your manuscript; final awards will be made entirely on the basis of the manuscript submission.

Judges may include Key West Literary Seminar staff and board members, as well as professional writers, editors, and members of the literary community. Past judges have included *New Yorker* poetry editor Paul Muldoon, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins.

Notes:

Past KWLS award-winners may not re-apply to awards program, but may apply for limited financial assistance.



Key West Literary Seminar | Awards & Financial Assistance

**Financial Assistance for Teachers, Librarians, Students, and Writers
Application Guidelines**

Our Financial Assistance Program provides fee reductions to teachers, librarians, students, and writers who would otherwise not be able to attend the Seminar or Writers' Workshop Program. We may also provide discounted lodging options to a small number of applicants. For your application to be considered, we will need the following:

1. Cover letter: In approximately 500 words, tell us about yourself, your interests, and your educational background. Tell us about your professional role(s) and responsibilities. Tell us why you want to attend the Seminar, what you hope to get out of the experience, and how it will help in your professional or academic life. Include your name, email address, mailing address, and telephone number. Also list the names and email addresses of your two references.

2. Your request for assistance:

Please answer the following questions: Are you applying for financial support for the Seminar, the Workshop Program, or both? Do you also need help with lodging? How much can you afford to pay on your own? What is your deadline for knowing if assistance is available?

3. References:

a. Please include a brief letter of support. If you are in the school system, this should be from your principal or department head.

b. Please provide the name and email address of one additional person who is familiar with you and your work. (Please let them know that we might be in touch.)

4. Writing sample

a. If you are applying as a teacher or librarian for the Seminar only, a writing sample is not required.

b. If you are applying as a writer or student, or if you are applying for the writers' workshop program, please include a writing sample of no more than 15 pages or 10 poems in a separate document. If you are applying for assistance for just the Seminar, this requirement is optional, but your desire to attend the seminar must be compelling. Submitting a writing sample means you will automatically be considered for one of our three named awards (see page one).

Delivery:

Please send your completed application package by email to mail@kwls.org. Your cover letter and writing sample (if applicable) should be attached as two separate word documents. Please use file names in the following format: "Lastname_Firstname_cover.doc." and "Lastname_Firstname_submission.doc."

Deadline:

Financial assistance is awarded on a "rolling" basis until funds are depleted. We therefore encourage you to apply as early as possible. That said, in all likelihood we will not act on your request until late summer or early Fall. Be sure to let us know if it is imperative for you to hear before that time. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

We are grateful to Joyce Johnson, Peyton Evans and The Rodel Charitable Foundation-Florida, and The Dogwood Foundation for providing the endowments which will support our scholarship program for years to come; to Judy Blume's KIDS Fund for financial assistance to teachers and librarians; and to our board of directors and the many individuals whose support allows emerging writers to join the Seminar and Writers' Workshop Program each year.