

Below you will find guidelines for submitting to Walsh Communications Literary Agency, some information on Literary Agencies in general and how to approach them, and some information and resources for writers. We hope you find this information helpful and wish you the best of luck with your writing.

Due to the large volume of interest from writers seeking representation, Walsh Communications do not accept unsolicited manuscript submissions sent on spec to our literary agency. Instead, we operate an 'invitation to submit' policy, whereby we ask writers to first make an initial enquiry by email and then we may invite them to submit some work for consideration.

Please read the below guidelines carefully before contacting us with your submission:

1. If you are seeking literary representation please check our website first to see if we are currently open to queries. From time to time, due to a large volume of queries, we are obliged to close to submissions for a short period of time to enable us to catch up with existing submissions. If this is the case a notice will be posted on the contact page of our site: www.walshcommunications.ie/contact.php so please check here first and respect this request not to contact us with queries until we are open to receiving them again. Thank you.
2. If you have checked our contact page and we are open to queries and submissions then we would ask you to email us first before you send us in a submission. In this email we'd like you to briefly outline your writing project, what genre your work is, any writing experience you have, and the kind of audience you envisage your book would appeal to. You may also like to paste the synopsis of your work into your email. As we get a great deal of queries each day we will endeavour to reply within weeks but please be patient.
3. Please do not send attachments unless we invite you to. If you do send attachments without invitation then due to security reasons and our need to protect our electronic files, your email will be deleted.
4. As are exceptionally busy we do not have time to engage in lengthy correspondence with writers, though we love to talk about books and writing whenever we get the chance! So unfortunately, we will not have time to get into discussions with you about the best work to submit, it is up to you to choose what you feel is your best, most marketable, work to submit to us.
5. When we invite you to send us in some work please send a synopsis (max two pages) and, if we ask for some sample chapters, then send us three sequential sample chapters of your book (no more than 40-50 pages).
6. Sadly, we don't have the time to give feedback, advice or critique on the work you send in. We wish we did as we know that it can be very helpful for writers and it can be a tremendously difficult industry to work in. Receiving a rejection, no matter what the reason for the rejection, is not easy, but we simply don't have the time to individually give feedback on why your work is not for us if we chose not to read further. If we invite you to submit some work for consideration then we will read it, consider it and let you know if we would like to read more and/or represent you, but we won't reply with significant critique on your work. From time to time, if we have something to say that we think may help you we will let you know, but this will be the exception rather than the rule. If you are looking for a professional critique or appraisal of your work then please visit the Consultancy department of Walsh Communications: <http://www.walshcommunications.ie/business-areas.html>
7. If we like the idea for your book we will ask to read a sample of it.
8. If we decline your work please don't offer us more work to read. If we don't like that particular work but do like your style we may well ask to see some other work.
9. Please don't mass mail us along with other agents! We understand that you may be contacting other agents too and that is absolutely fine but please don't send a mass email out to all the agents in one go. If you are asking us to take the time out to read your work we'd like to think that you are respecting us enough to email us individually and specifically!
10. Unfortunately, we don't accept submissions of poetry, short stories or science/fantasy fiction. Poets may find more helpful information on www.poetryireland.ie.

11. Please remember, although writing is an artistic endeavour, publishing is a business and we are trying to make a living in this business. We are on the lookout for viable works that can be commercially successful so if your work is only going to have a small niche audience then the likelihood is that it is not going to be the right work for us.
12. Please be patient with us when waiting for a response. We know you are keen to hear back from us and we understand how difficult the waiting can be but please bear in mind the sheer volume of submissions we receive and the time it takes to deal with these. If you have heard nothing from us after 12 weeks you may want to email us to check in, but prior to that please refrain from calling, emailing or writing to us for updates. Time spent responding to these queries would be better spent reading submissions.
13. To help you understand how agents work and why we are unable to engage in correspondence with all the writers that contact us you may find the following information about the role of an agent useful:

A common misconception is that an agent's job is to read fledgling writers' work with a view to securing new clients, not so. An agent's work is to represent their existing clients, and so a very small proportion of their time can be spent on reading new, unsigned authors' work. Bear this in mind when approaching an agent. Unfortunately, agents don't spend the day reading mss (that's short for manuscripts!) trying to find the next Anita Shreve/J.K. Rowling/Dan Brown, we wish! They're far too busy developing their existing writers' careers and have to try to squeeze in reading submissions around that. The writers that an agent represents are, rightly so, the ones that get the most of their time and effort and it is crucial that potential new writers understand this. Reading through submissions is often squeezed in around the other day-to-day work. If you send your work to an agent, they'll likely be reading it after hours or at the weekend, so respect them for this and be patient. This is why most agents can't usually give all the writers that contact them personal feedback and critiques on the work submitted to them by querying writers seeking representation – no matter how much they would want to. Agents do understand how hard it can be going through the submission process for a writer, they understand how the inherent and unavoidable rejection can feel – after all agents deal with rejection too – and they sympathise but their priority always needs to be the existing writers they represent, and if an agent takes you on, you'll be glad of that. In the meantime, don't lose hope, no writer has managed to avoid rejection, it is a natural part of the business and those that persevere increase their chances of success. Good Luck!

Resources for Writers

Books

- The Writers and Artists' Yearbook 2011 by A & C Black
- From Pitch to Publication by Carole Blake
- Children's Writers' and Artists' Yearbook 2011 by A & C Black
- The Writers' Handbook 2011 Edited by Barry Turner
- The Creative Writing Coursebook by Julie Bell

Sites

- www.write4kids.com
- www.writing.ie
- www.writing4all.ie
- www.creativewriting.ie
- www.childrensbooksireland.ie
- www.writerscentre.ie
- www.writersandartists.co.uk