

WLCU Sydney Inc.

Dr Charles Malik Literary Awards 2026

Award Rules

1. Introduction

- a) The Dr Charles Malik Literary Awards is an annual competition open to all persons aged 15 years and over at the time of submission. The purpose of the competition is to promote exceptional literary merit within the Lebanese community and the diaspora.
- b) Entries will be sought from individuals or groups of individuals, to prepare an essay (hereafter referred to as “article”) on a topic of choice in accordance with the requirements outlined below in subsection 3.
- c) The Competition is open to all Australians and non-Australians and will be a world-wide annual competition for all applicants.
- d) The Competition will officially open after 15th January each year with submissions to be received by November at the latest each year. The closing date may be varied and will be publicised on the WLCU Sydney Inc. website.
- e) The competition will be publicised using several formats, including social media platforms, electronic communications and via the WLCU Sydney Newsletter.
- f) The Dr Charles Malik Literary Award recipients will be decided by the Judging Panel. The selected Award recipients will be formally presented with their Awards and publicly acknowledged at a prestigious WLCU ceremony. Award recipients will be advised of the date and place of the ceremony ahead of time. Award recipients who are unable to attend the WLCU Ceremony will be provided the opportunity to join the ceremony via video conference or by other means suitable for the occasion. All entrants will be notified of the results via e-mail.

2. Additional Award Categories

As well as our overall category, the *Dr Charles Malik Literary Excellence Award* two additional categories were introduced in 2025:

The Dr Charles Malik Youth Award:

Open to entrants aged 15 to 24 years old at the time of submission.

Entrants eligible for this award must clearly note their age in their submission.

The Dr Charles Malik Poetry Award:

Awarded to the best submission in poetic form.

All poetic entries must still meet the core theme requirements outlined in these Rules.

- a) Entrants who are eligible for the Youth and/or Poetry Awards will still be considered for the *Literary Excellence Award*. If an entrant wins the overall award, the Youth or Poetry Award may instead be awarded to the runner-up in that category.

3. Panel of Judges

- a) There is to be a panel of judges with at least four (4) and a maximum of seven (7) members.
- b) The Judges must be Members of the WLCU Sydney and shall be selected and appointed by the WLCU Sydney Committee. Judges will be appointed or re-appointed on an annual basis.
- c) The Judges are to act honourably and to disclose any perceived bias or conflicts of interest with any of the applicants.
- d) The Panel of Judges must hold a formal meeting to officially decide upon the winners of the WLCU Sydney *Dr Charles Malik Award*. The Award Recipients will be subsequently announced. The decisions of the Judging Panel will be final.

4. Articles submitted

- a) The articles submitted for this competition are to be written in English, one-and-a-half-spaced, in an easily legible font (for example Times New Roman size 12 font). Articles that are not written in English will be accepted, so long as there is an accompanying translation.
- b) The articles submitted are to be around 3,000 words in length, and pages are to be numerated. However, both shorter and longer entries are welcomed.
- c) Acceptable writing forms for submission include, but are not limited to: fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, personal essay, discursive writing.
- d) The articles are to be judged on:

- i. The clarity and coherence of the written expression.
 - ii. The quality and sophistication of language choices related to form, structure, and aesthetics.
 - iii. The originality of the central topic, and how evocatively it is communicated to the reader.
 - iv. The relevance to the theme of Lebanon.
- e) The articles must be both non-political and non-partisan. There is to be no personal indictment, racial or religious prejudice expressed in the articles. Vilification of countries or national identities is also prohibited.
- f) The subject of all articles submitted ***must*** include a Lebanese theme. This however is unrestricted (for instance the topic may be of the Arts, economics etc.). This is designed to allow the author maximum creativity and scope, provided that the subject is not offensive. The intent is to express in words a form of literary celebration of Lebanese culture.
- g) The work produced is to be both authentic and original and must be the work of the author. It is expected that proper footnotes would be included if other work is referenced. Plagiarism is an immediate ground for disqualification.
- h) All articles submitted, will necessarily include the author's express permission, that the articles may be reproduced in future WLCU Sydney publications, communications, or Newsletters. This will include appropriate acknowledgement of the author.
- i) Entries are to be submitted in PDF form via the Google Form on the WLCU website: www.wlcunsw.org.au/dr-charles-malik-award/

5. Award Recipients

- a) A first, second, and third prize will be awarded in our overall category, the *Dr Charles Malik Literary Excellence Award*. However, only a first prize will be awarded in The Dr Charles Malik Youth Award and the Dr Charles Malik Poetry Award.



**World Lebanese Cultural Union
of Sydney Inc.**

- b) The Dr Charles Malik Youth Award and the Dr Charles Malik Poetry Award will be awarded to eligible entrants. An entrant may still be chosen as the overall winner of the competition; in such cases, the Youth or Poetry Award may instead be awarded to the next highest-ranked eligible entrant in that category.
- c) Award recipients may be featured in the WLCU Sydney Newsletter and on the WLCU Sydney website

6. Commencement date

- a) The Award Rules shall take effect from: 25th October 2021 and will apply for all subsequent years, unless modified and accordingly notified, by the WLCU Sydney Committee.

Dated: 25 October 2021

Last Amended: 22 February 2026