



The ESSE Messenger

<http://essenglish.org/messenger>

Call for Contributions: *The ESSE Messenger* Poetry Contest

Special Issue of *The ESSE Messenger*

The ESSE Messenger invites (undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate) students in the broad field of English Studies from across Europe to submit original poetry inspired by the Arthurian legend for our upcoming special issue entitled “The Artistic and Cultural Reflections of the Arthurian Legend: From the Medieval Manuscript to the Digital World.”

Theme and inspiration

From the mystical mists of Avalon and the tragic romance of Lancelot and Guinevere, to the quest for the Holy Grail and modern reinterpretations of Morgan le Fay, Arthurian myth has shaped European literature for centuries. We are looking for contemporary poetic voices that engage with these enduring tales.

Submissions may explore, but are not limited to, the following angles:

- **Myth and identity:** Reinterpreting classic figures (Arthur, Merlin, Mordred, Gawain, Nimue) through modern lenses.
- **Landscape and atmosphere:** Camelot, chivalry, magic, nature and sacred spaces.
- **Themes of power and fate:** Honor, betrayal, questing, ideal societies and political decay.
- **Form and metre:** Traditional verse forms (ballads, sonnets) or modern free-verse adaptations.

Submission guidelines

- **Eligibility:** Open to all current undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students enrolled in a higher education programme that has a focus on English Studies (including but not limited to literatures, cultures and history, film and visual studies, linguistics, applied linguistics, TEFL methodology, etc., pertaining to English-speaking countries). Submissions must be individual, with a limit of one submission per student.
- **Genre:** Poetry.
- **Length:** Up to 60 lines per poem.
- **Language:** English.
- **Originality:** All submissions must be original, unpublished work not currently under consideration elsewhere and not generated by AI.

Formatting and anonymity

- Submit your work as .docx and .pdf files.
- To ensure fair, double-blind peer review, do not include your name or institution inside the document itself.



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- Please include a separate cover page with: full name; academic institution and degree programme; contact email address; poem title(s); and a brief 50-word author bio.

Prize

- Publication of the poem in *The ESSE Messenger* and on ESSE social media.
- A book of the winner's choice from the academic publisher Taylor & Francis.

Important dates

- **Deadline for submissions:** 15th December 2026.
- **Publication date:** Spring 2027.

How to submit

Send your submissions via email to esse.messenger@uma.es with the subject line: "Arthurian Poetry Contest Submission: [Your Name]."

For any inquiries regarding the competition or submission specifications, please contact the Editor at esse.messenger@uma.es.