

## ON SPEC SUBMISSION FAQs

**How do I submit stories, poetry, or art to On Spec?** On Spec uses Submittable, an online submissions system to streamline our process and improve communication with authors. While we accept poetry and art submissions year-round, there will be specified six-week windows for fiction to be sent to us. We're open to fiction submissions. When we are open, a link will be available on the On Spec website. Notification will also be sent out via Twitter and Facebook.

**What kind of fiction does On Spec buy?** On Spec magazine is a genre market for science fiction, fantasy, magic realism, horror and other speculative fiction stories. We are publishing for an adult reading audience and do not accept YA or juvenile fiction.

**What rights does On Spec buy?** On Spec buys first English North American serial **and digital** rights to your work.

**What languages does On Spec buy?** We are based in Canada and buy English language fiction from all over the world.

**Does On Spec buy translations of previously-published work?** If the work is already translated into English, even if previously published in another language, we will consider it. **We do not have a budget to pay for translation work.**

**When does On Spec pay?** We pay upon acceptance.

**What does On Spec pay?** Pay rates are in Canadian dollars:

- Poems (4-100 lines): \$50 plus one contributor's copy.
- Short-short stories (under 1000 words): \$50, plus one contributor's copy
- Fiction (6000 words maximum length):
  - Under 3000 words: \$125
  - 3000-4999 words: \$175
  - 5000-6000 words: \$200

Each contributor will also receive 2 contributor's copies plus a one-year subscription

**How is cover art selected?** Our editors look at artists' online portfolios and select images that suit our covers and themes. Occasionally we will commission a work. We offer contracts for the rights to use the image on a cover. Payment is a base fee of \$400 plus \$50 for any interior images we choose to accompany the artist interview.

**What is the word length for stories?** We seldom buy stories shorter than 1,000 words or longer than 6,000 words, and we don't serialize novels.

**Do you buy reprints?** No. We do not publish reprints.

**Do you accept simultaneous submissions?** Yes, we do accept simultaneous submissions, but please have the courtesy to withdraw your submission to us if it sells elsewhere.

**Do accept new writers?** Yes indeed. We love finding new talent! We consider material submitted by any writer, previously published or not.

**Do you publish stories with a lot of sex or violence?** No. We are not interested in explicit sex or violence.

**Do you accept submissions via email?** No. Unsolicited submissions sent to us via e-mail will be politely declined. Please use our **Submittable** process as requested on the website. You will be asked for your name, email address, cover letter, story title, word count, and story with a bio at the end of the manuscript. Your cover letter should contain the title of your story and any other relevant information. You then have a record of your submission and a way to track its progress.

We ask for the same information for poetry. Please fill out a separate form for each poem submitted for consideration.

**Do you accept submissions via snail-mail?** While we do still read works sent to us the old-fashioned way, they tend to go to the back of the line. Better to use our on-line process.

**What format do you prefer?** All stories and poems should be in standard manuscript format and should be submitted in .RTF format only, unless otherwise advised by an editor. For information about standard formatting, see [William Shunn's guide to Proper Manuscript Format](#). After you have submitted your work you will receive an automated email confirmation to your email. NOTE: Some email providers occasionally treat our email as spam, so please keep an eye on your spam folder.

**What is your response time?** Our average response time improving, but is still a bit slower than we like, so we are taking steps to improve ourselves by taking on more staff. If you have not heard from us in three months, please check your status on Submittable and if you still need information, you can query us about the submission at [onspec@onspec.ca](mailto:onspec@onspec.ca).

**And if you did not receive an automatic acknowledgement, we are not responsible for lost or mis-directed submissions.**

Thanks for your interest in On Spec Magazine, and good luck!