



Guidelines for Creative submissions

DREAMERS is an online magazine dedicated to documenting and sharing the creativity and dreams of Bristol people. We're interested in exploring futures more equitable, loving and harmonious than the one we exist in today. This magazine does not have a theme - it is simply a home for experimentation, imagination and speculation. We are particularly excited about giving a platform to writers, artists and thinkers who don't have traditional 'credentials'. We have two sections, Culture and Creative, that cover different mediums.

Creative features imaginative, experimental Bristol creativity in the form of poetry, short fiction and visual art. Although DREAMERS doesn't have a theme per se, we can provide broad guidance and inspiration to illustrate what we're looking for. We also encourage you to check out the work on our website and read our manifesto!

For poetry and short fiction:

Bristol has a thriving poetry scene, particularly when it comes to spoken word events. As much as we love the ephemeral beauty of these spaces, we have found ourselves often wanting a more concrete home in which to read, discover and share creative writing. There are also many zines and short story competitions for writers to submit to, but they often require working with a specific theme, or paying to submit. If you're interested in making your work more permanently accessible to a local, online audience, we'd like to see it. The limitations of what we would like to publish are wide, but here are some open guidelines if you want some direction:

- Expansive, brave, imaginative writing is what we're really interested in. We want to encourage and invite writers to push themselves to write in ways that have been afraid to, and to give themselves permission to try new things
- Creative writing that explores possibilities not yet realised: this could be an expression of the person you want to become, the systems you want to see, the questions of your life you are currently considering, or something else entirely
- We are interested in seeing all kinds of poetry from Bristol writers, and can discuss the formatting of your poem on the website
- Short fiction genres we'd love to read include solarpunk, magical realism, speculative fiction, fable, and autofiction and much, much more.
- Themes we're interested in seeing for all types of Creative submissions include connection, absurdity, social change, nature, relationships, gender, bodies, power, metamorphosis, fantasy, societal narratives, identity, myth, freedom, care, healing and much more.

Poetry suggested limit: 300 words or 50 lines

Short fiction suggested limit: 10,000 words



On word limits: the online nature of DREAMERS gives us freedom to publish long-form content (and in an age of lightning quick content and distraction, we think this is important), but we have to consider the time taken for the DREAMERS team to read each submission, and the reader experience of people visiting the site. If you'd like to publish something with us that goes beyond our word limit, get in touch to discuss. The above limits are not something to aim for and there is no minimum word count for submissions.

For visual art submissions:

We can feature visual art in a variety of ways on the website and socials, so it would be best to discuss your ideas and questions directly. All art styles are welcome and your work doesn't need to fit any theme to be featured – the themes mentioned above for written work can serve as inspiration for visual art submissions, but we want DREAMERS to provide a home and platform for a wide variety of Bristol artists. A few examples of the kinds of visual art we have featured or would like to feature include:

- Photo essays
- Short films or videos
 - Animations
- Painting, printing, collage, or other craft art
 - Comics and illustrations

At this stage, we are 100% volunteer run, and we simply want to build a community of Bristol creatives and give them a platform for expression. However, we do want to eventually co-create strategies to provide revenue for people in our community - and for ourselves, so we can continue to grow. If you'd like to get involved in collaborating and strategizing to this aim, get in touch.

Please send submissions as Word/Google Docs for writing, JPEG/PNG files for images, and ideally Youtube or Vimeo for video. Please get in touch if you'd like to submit animation, or direct any other queries to holly@dreamerszine.com.