



RNA MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA – Independent Author Membership

Independent Author Membership of the Romantic Novelists' Association is open to authors who have self-published two or more works of romantic fiction. All members must be at least 18 years of age.

To be eligible for Independent Author Membership authors must fulfil the following criteria:

1. The author must have **self-published** two or more works of romantic fiction, each over 30,000 words in length.
2. At least one of those works of romantic fiction must have either:
 - a) generated income from sales in excess of £500 in a single 12 month period, **or**
 - b) sold at least 1000 copies in a single 12 month period. Copies which are distributed for free do not count towards this figure and nor do copies purchased by the author from a retailer or facilitating company.

The 12 month period does not have to be a January-December calendar year, and the copies sold can be in any format (digital, print, audio etc) or across multiple formats.

How do we define self-published?

A work is considered 'self-published' where the costs of publication are met by the author and the relevant rights to the work in question are retained by the author. The author may choose to work with a range of commercial bodies in the publication of the work, including companies which facilitate and manage the publication process, but the costs of the process should be borne by the author, and other parties should not gain ownership of rights in relation to the published work.

The Association may require reassurance or supporting evidence that the definitions and criteria above have been met. The Association's decision on membership applications is final, and the Association retains the discretion to place a cap on membership numbers within this category.

Independent Author Members are not eligible to vote at Association AGMs, EGMs or in constitutional ballots of the Association's membership. Authors who continue as Independent Author Members for three consecutive years will automatically transfer to Full Membership and will subsequently have full voting rights within the association.

Authors who have self-published their own work, and have also engaged in an enforceable commercial contract from a 'traditional' publishing company are eligible to apply directly for Full Membership. Authors who are unpublished, or who do not meet the criteria for Full or Independent Author Membership, may be able to join the Association through the New Writers' Scheme. Other publishing and book industry professionals can apply for Associate Membership of the Association. Further information about other forms of membership is available in the 'Join' section of the Association's website www.rna-uk.org

Any queries regarding membership of the Association should be directed to our Membership Secretary at info@romanticnovelistsassociation.org