

RNA MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA – Full Membership

Full Membership of the Romantic Novelists' Association is open to traditionally published writers of romantic novels and full length serials or novellas.

All members must be at least 18 years of age.

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

1. The author must have a romantic novel, novella or magazine serial of at least 30,000 words published or accepted for publication.
2. The author must have an enforceable **commercial contract** from a publishing company, which must be properly established as a bona fide business in an appropriate jurisdiction and have a significant number of recently published authors on its lists (normally at least ten) and/or a significant publishing track record, normally spanning at least two years.

Additionally, self-published writers who maintain membership of the Association as Independent Author Members for three consecutive years, shall be granted Full Membership of the Association.

How do we define a commercial contract?

The publishing contract may relate to print and/or electronic media, and the novel/novella/serial must have been through a selection process. There is no requirement for an advance but the author should receive royalties. The publisher must undertake professional editing of manuscripts, either in-house or subcontracted, at publisher's expense. This is in addition to copy-editing.

The author should bear no part of the cost of preproduction costs or processes, nor undertake tasks that relate to: typesetting or other production costs, cover art or any commercial distribution tasks or costs (excluding book sales at author events such as signings or conferences). A requirement for an author to buy copies may be construed as an author contribution to the costs of publication.

If a pre-contract edit is a condition of contract, not at the expense of the publisher, that will constitute the writer bearing a preproduction cost. NB This refers only to an edit, not appraisal or critique.

Breadth of distribution is desirable, as is a track record of appropriate expertise on the publisher's part.

The Association may require reassurance or supporting evidence that a contract meets the definitions and criteria above. The Association's decision on membership applications is final.

Authors who have solely self-published their own works of romantic fiction should not apply initially for Full Membership, but may be eligible for Independent Author Membership of the Association.

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