



(RE-)VISITING  
THE MEDITERRANEAN

## (Re-)Visiting the Mediterranean Short Story Competition Call for Submissions

The Department of English at the University of Malta is delighted to announce a creative writing competition for post-secondary students on the theme of **Seeing the Sea**.

Students are invited to submit an original piece of writing in English in the genre of **poetry** or the **short story** that features 'Seeing the Sea' as one of its central themes.

Participants are encouraged to interpret the theme broadly and imaginatively and consider the different ways in which it can be understood. They may choose to write about:

- Different seas and oceans; possible connections between them.
- Different ways of engaging with the sea: recreational activities, leisure, sport, fishing, trade, science, etc.
- The sea as a space of distance or connection, travel, exploration, etc.
- The sea as a symbolic space: What different meanings can we give it?
- Lived experiences in the Mediterranean Sea: Different political, social, geographical realities. From which shore do we see the Mediterranean? Who does it belong to?
- Different ways of seeing and the possibility of different perspectives: The sea as seen from the land; the land as seen from the sea; the sea in the past, the present, or the future; historical or speculative perspectives; personal experiences or reflections.
- Nonhuman perspectives and ways of being in the sea: The sea as biological habitat; the lives of marine species. Can we imagine nonhuman ways of seeing or sensing? Can we adopt the imagined viewpoints and experiences of other species?
- Changing seas: Sea temperature rise, pollution, plastic waste, depletion of marine life and biodiversity, rising sea levels, acidification, 'alien' species, etc.





## Eligibility and Deadline:

The competition is open to **all Advanced and Intermediate students** currently enrolled in your institution.

Each submitted entry must be accompanied by a **signed declaration** (find below) confirming that it is an original piece of work written solely by the participant, that it has not been presented or submitted elsewhere, and that generative AI has not been used at any point in the writing and editing process.

All submissions must be received by **April 30, 2026**. Late entries will not be considered.

**Instructions for Submission:** Submit your entry as a Word document or a PDF file by email to [lifeinthemed.submission@gmail.com](mailto:lifeinthemed.submission@gmail.com) by **April 30, 2026**. Ensure your submission includes:

- Your full name
- Name of institution
- Student ID number
- Email address and contact number
- Signed originality declaration (see form below)

## Selection Criteria and Prizes:

Entries will be evaluated on their originality, their relevance to the theme, their use of language, style, and the overall impact of the writing.

Winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges composed of representatives from the Erasmus-funded RE-MED project at the University of Malta, Department of English; *Antae: A Journal of Creative Writing*; the Department of English Student Association (DESA).

One winning entry and two runners-up will be selected and winners will be announced by **May 15, 2026**. The winning entry will receive a **€150 voucher** from Agenda bookshop, and the runners-up will receive **€50 vouchers**.

Winning entries will also be considered for publication in ***Antae: A Journal of Creative Writing***, provided they meet the journal's publication standards.

The awards will be presented in June at a prize-giving ceremony organised by the Department of English at the University of Malta.



## Terms and Conditions:

**Eligibility:** Only Advanced and Intermediate students currently enrolled at one of the contacted institutions are eligible to participate. Submissions must comply with the theme and genres specified in the call for submissions.

**Originality and Authorship:** Each participant must submit an original piece of work written solely by them. Submissions must not have been presented or submitted elsewhere. Participants must sign an originality declaration confirming that no generative AI was used in creating the story.

**Submission Guidelines:** Entries must be submitted via email as a Word document or PDF. All submissions must include the participant's full name, student ID number, contact details, and signed originality declaration.

**Judging and Results:** Entries will be judged based on originality, relevance to the theme, use of language, style of writing, and overall impact. The decision of the judging panel is final and no correspondence regarding the results will be entertained.

**Prizes:** Winners will receive book vouchers, an invitation to the prize-giving ceremony, and the possibility of publication in *Antae*. Prizes are non-transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash.

**Copyright:** By submitting an entry, participants grant the REMED project permission to publish or reproduce their work in connection with the competition. Any submissions selected for publication with *Antea* will be subject to the journal's own copyright agreement.

**Data Protection:** Personal information provided in the submission will be used solely for the administration of the competition and will not be shared with third parties.

**Disqualification:** Failure to comply with these terms and conditions will result in disqualification. Any evidence of plagiarism or AI usage will lead to immediate disqualification.

*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.*



## (Re)-Visiting the Mediterranean Short Story Competition

### Declaration of Authenticity

*Please attach the following declaration to your submission:*

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this submission is an original piece of work created solely by me. By signing this declaration, I confirm that:

- The submitted story is entirely my own work and has not been co-authored or created with assistance from any other individual or entity.
- The story has not been previously published, submitted, or presented for any other competition, platform, or publication.
- I have not used any generative artificial intelligence tools or systems at any stage of the writing or editing process for this story.
- All personal details provided below are accurate and up-to-date.

I understand that any violation of the above declarations will result in immediate disqualification.

#### Participant Details:

- Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_
- Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Signature and Date:

- Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_