

## *2023/2024 Undergraduate Prizes*

The Department of English offers fourteen undergraduate prizes for outstanding essays and/or academic achievement, as well as prizes for outstanding essays written in each of the four curricular levels. The description and eligibility criteria of each prize is listed below.

The prizes are only applicable to the **Summer 2023** or **Fall/Winter 2023-2024** sessions.

Submission deadline: **Sunday, June 30, 2024**

### **Important Notes:**

- The winners of essay prizes will be invited to publish their work in York University's open-access repository, [YorkSpace](#). **YorkSpace** showcases the scholarship of the YorkU community. All works are assigned a unique URL, like a DOI, and indexed in [Google Scholar](#) for increased discoverability.
- These prizes will be presented at the Department's annual Awards Reception to be held in February 2025.
- Please note that the list of winners will also be posted on the [English Department's Awards](#) website and other communications to the YorkU community.

### Require student applications:

1. **The H.K. Girling Literature Prize:** Awarded annually for an outstanding essay written in a **2000- or 3000-level course** and for commitment to literature **both in the classroom and in other ways**. Students may nominate themselves **or** be nominated by their instructor. A full nomination file will include a clean copy of the essay, a copy of the assignment guidelines/instructions, and an accompanying letter from a faculty member detailing the student's commitment to literature. Only full nomination files will be considered.

Please fill out the [MachForm](#) to submit your nomination file.

2. **The Lucille Herbert Memorial Scholarship:** Awarded to assist an undergraduate student in English or Creative Writing within the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies who has completed at least four English and/or Creative Writing courses (including current enrolment) and who proposes to travel to Europe, especially France. This award may be specifically for the purpose of study, but this is not a necessary qualification for the award.

Interested students must submit an articulate letter of application, which should provide the following information: present level of study; English courses taken, and grades obtained; present academic plans; object of travel. (No reference letters). Applicants may be expected to attend an informal interview. The winner is expected to submit to the department a brief account of his/her travels afterward.

Please fill out the [MachForm](#) to submit your application letter, addressed to the Teaching Committee of the English Department.

## Require nominations by a faculty member of the English Department:

3. **The Avie Bennett Prize in Canadian Literature:** awarded annually to an undergraduate student studying in the Department of English, who has written the best essay in **Canadian Literature**. Essays must be nominated by an instructor in the Department of English.
  - AP/EN 2220: Canadian Literature
  - AP/EN 3220: Modern Canadian Drama
  - AP/EN 3230: Modern Canadian Fiction
  - AP/EN 3255: Indigenous Drama in Canada
  - AP/EN 4220: Canadian Graphic Novel
  - AP/EN 4230: Canadian Short Story
  - AP/EN 4252: Canadian Life Writing
  - AP/EN 4402: Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Black Poetics in the US & Canada
  
4. **The Brian Hepworth Memorial Prize:** awarded annually for the best essay on a subject drawn from **English literature, 1660-1800**, written by an undergraduate student and submitted as part of the requirements for an undergraduate course offered in the current year by the English Department. Essays must be nominated by an instructor in the Department of English.
  - AP/EN 1001: Intro to Literary Study
  - AP/EN 2250: Intro to British Literature
  - AP/EN 2262: Intro to World Literature II: The Modern Period
  - AP/EN 4120: The Rise of the Novel
  - AP/EN 4531: Renaissance Spectacles
  
5. **The Elizabeth Sabiston Prize:** awarded annually to a student who writes an outstanding essay in a **3rd or 4th year English course** in the field of **Women in Literature** (British, American, or Canadian, 18th to 20th centuries). Subjects could include characterization of the female by female or male authors, women novelists or poets, comparative studies.
  - All 3000- 4000-level courses
  
6. **The June McMaster-Harrison Memorial Prize:** awarded annually to an LA&PS student who, while enrolled in an **English or Humanities course, at the 3000- or 4000-level**, produces the finest piece of written work in area of studies with special interest to Prof. McMaster-Harrison: literature of the **Romantic period; the American Transcendentalists; archetypal interpretation of literary works; innovative literary theory and methodology; cross-disciplinary studies involving literature** (e.g. literature and other arts or sciences). It is awarded for courses completed in the previous fall/winter and summer sessions. Essays must be nominated by an instructor in the Department of English.
  - AP/EN 3070: Filming Literature
  - AP/EN 4002: Food & Writing
  - AP/EN 4004: Frye & McLuhan

- AP/EN 4050: The Arts of Memory
  - AP/EN 4061: Environmental Justice Literature
  - AP/EN 4332: Edgar Allan Poe
7. **Year-level Essay Prizes:** awarded to Faculty of LA&PS students who produce the best piece of written work for an English course at the 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 year-level. The essay must be at least 1000 words in length and may be on any topic. The study level of the student whose essay is being nominated will be taken into account in adjudicating the prize. Essays must be nominated by an instructor in the Department of English.
- All English (AP/EN) courses

No applications required (all eligible students will be automatically considered):

8. **The Department of English Retirees' Scholarship:** established by Prof. Ruth Grogan upon her retirement in 2004, this prize will be awarded annually to the top student, ranking based on cumulative GPA, in the Department of English in the Faculty of LA&P. The student must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and a resident of Ontario, and who demonstrates financial need. The winner will be enrolled in a major or minor program in the Dept. of English and will have completed at least 21 credits in English and will be continuing in the Dept. with at least 12 credits remaining to graduate, 6 of which must be in English. Eligible students will be invited to complete a Student Financial Profile to determine financial need. No nominations are received for this award, since the award is adjudicated on the basis of academic achievement, as shown by grades, and demonstration of financial need.
9. **The Matthew Ahern Memorial Prize:** awarded annually to the student with the highest academic achievement in one of the following courses: **Shakespeare and his Contemporaries; Poetry and Prose of the Romantic Period; American Literature of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; Elizabethan and Jacobean Drama.** It is awarded for courses completed in the previous fall/winter and summer sessions. No nominations are received for this award since the award is adjudicated solely on the basis of student grades.
- AP/EN 3535: Shakespeare
  - AP/EN 4332: Edgar Allan Poe
  - AP/EN 4531: Renaissance Spectacles
10. **The Stephanie Stavro Scholarship in English:** awarded to an Indigenous and/or Black student who is majoring in an English program within the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Preference will be granted to the second-year student with the highest GPA (based on grades in the first year of study) who identifies as Indigenous or Black and demonstrates financial need. If there are no eligible candidates, then the award will be granted to the third-year student with the highest GPA (based on second year grades) who identifies as Black and demonstrates financial need. This award is being established under York's Special Programs for Black Students and Indigenous students (developed under the Ontario Human Rights Code). Stephanie Stavro is a proud alumna of York University's Department of English. She established this award for Black and Indigenous undergraduate students in English who demonstrate financial need.
11. **The Taryn Lynne Stephens Award:** awarded to an undergraduate student entering their third year (i.e. has completed a minimum of 24 credits) who is majoring in English and with a minimum sessional GPA of 6.00 (B). Recipient must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or protected person who is a resident of Ontario and demonstrates financial need. If there is no candidate who meets these criteria, a student may be selected from among fourth year students. If there is no viable recipient among then second year students, a

student may be selected from among second year students. Selection will be based on the balance of the criteria. The Taryn Lynne Stephens Award was established in honour of the late Taryn Stephens, a caring and conscientious young woman, who graduated with Honours from York in 2007.