



## Submission Guidelines THE ROSWELL AWARD & Feminist Futures Award

SCI-FI WRITING COMPETITIONS FOR  
Writers Aged 16+ Worldwide

### What are The Roswell Award and the Feminist Futures Award?

The Omega Sci-Fi Awards are proud to accept submissions to The Roswell Award and the Feminist Futures Award from September 7, 2021 through December 21, 2021. These are international short science fiction story writing competitions, and we accept entries from emerging writers age 16 and older located anywhere in the world. Our goal is to provide a unique opportunity for writers to aspire to excellence in storytelling and imagine the future of humanity – from how we address scientific, social, philosophical, and environmental issues to the development of new technologies and outer space exploration. The “Feminist Futures Award” (see below for more information) is our special prize category recognizing a science fiction story that embraces feminist themes. Top entries will exemplify excellence in feminist storytelling.

### What do I need to know to submit a story?

**Submissions are due December 21, 2021, at 11:59 pm PST.** Finalists and Honorable Mentions will be announced in April 2022, and our Culminating Event will be on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Writers may submit up to one (1) story between 500 minimum and 1,500 words maximum to either our general sci-fi category: The Roswell Award or our special prize: Feminist Futures Award. This competition is open to writers worldwide. **See below for specific details under the SUBMISSION CHECKLIST and the TIPS FOR SUBMISSIONS to guide your writing process.**

### How will writers be recognized?

Stories are judged in three rounds. We select four to six finalists for The Roswell Award. We also select a number of Honorable Mentions for both The Roswell Award and Feminist Futures Award. Chosen finalists will have their stories read in their honor by celebrity guests at our Culminating Event on Saturday, May 21, 2022. First, Second, and Third place winners will be announced after the readings. All finalists and honorable mentions will be recognized for their work with certificates. First, Second, and Third place winners will also receive prize money as listed. The “Feminist Futures Award” for feminist sci-fi will also be awarded to a distinct winner for an outstanding feminist sci-fi story.

### Is there a fee to submit my story?

The Omega Sci-Fi Awards is a nonprofit program and it is free to submit your story.

## SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- Authors must be at least 16 years of age.
- Only one (1) submission is accepted per author.
- Entry must be formatted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc/.docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf).
- Do not list your identifying details on your story document, just the title, and story text.
- Stories are limited to 500 words minimum and 1,500 words maximum (excluding the title).
- Stories are eligible for only one prize, but stories submitted for the Feminist Futures Award will be considered for the First, Second, and Third Place Roswell Award prizes if they do not win the prize category under which the story was originally submitted.
- Stories must not have any previous publication online or in print, including personal websites and social media.
- Stories must be original work. **Stories that feature characters, settings, or other defining features of any existing media properties (books, film, TV, etc.), including fan fiction, will not be considered.**
- Stories should be submitted through the submission form and received by 11:59 p.m. PST on December 21, 2021. Submission form link: <https://bit.ly/roswell-ffa>**

## PRIZES

### General Sci-Fi Category

- First Place: \$500 USD and UCLA Extension Writers' Program sponsored 10-week or shorter online course with the option of three (3) UCLA academic credits.
- Second Place: \$250 USD
- Third Place: \$100 USD

### Feminist Futures Award

- Prizes to be announced

*Certificates will also be awarded to all Winners, Finalists, and Honorable Mentions. Prizes and certificates will be presented at our culminating celebrity guest readings and awards on May 21, 2022.*

## ABOUT THE "FEMINIST FUTURES AWARD"

This award recognizes a science fiction story that embraces feminist themes. Top entries will exemplify excellence in feminist storytelling. We encourage stories that capture the complexities and other aspects of identity, as well as intersectionality, through the imaginative power of science fiction. This competition is open to people of any gender and/or no gender.

**Feminism:** The belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Expressed especially through organized activity on behalf of women's rights, interests, and justice.

**Intersectionality:** The interconnected nature of social categorizations or "multiple grounds of identity" such as race, class, sexual orientation, disability, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. Coined by civil rights activist and professor Kimberlé Crenshaw.

*Stories are only eligible for one prize. Stories not chosen for the Feminist Futures Award will be considered for the other Roswell Award prizes.*

## TIPS FOR STRONG SUBMISSIONS

- ★ Focus on telling an engaging story with strong characters, imagery, mood, tone, themes, etc.
- ★ Don't be afraid to experiment with your writing style.
- ★ Know the difference between science fiction and fantasy - don't submit a story about magic. However, we do accept a broad range of science fiction genre types, including science fiction with fantastical elements. Feel free to contact the competition organizer with questions.
- ★ Read the competition description carefully. Think about what interesting themes you can weave into your narrative.
- ★ Polish your work - make sure to carefully edit your story, correct errors, and improve your telling.
- ★ HAVE FUN! Don't stress too much and have fun with your story writing. Write about what interests you!