

Preamble

Aside from disseminating the work and figure of the writer Tom Sharpe, another of the purposes of the University of Girona's (UdG) Tom Sharpe Chair (CTS) is to promote knowledge of English literature in our territory.

Tom Sharpe, one of the twentieth century's most popular British novelists, died in 2013 in Llafranc (Palafrugell), where he had spent the last twenty years of his life. He stood out especially as a satiric author, and with his novels such as *Porterhouse Blue* (1974) he richly added to an already prolific British and North American tradition of *campus fiction* (narratives where most of the story takes place in a university setting and is often written in a sarcastic and comic register), which has produced such illustrious names as Mary McCarthy, Kingsley Amis, Tom Wolfe and David Lodge, among many others.

With the aims of further disseminating the seed of narrative writing in our university community, promoting the practice of writing in English and encouraging enjoyment of the campus fiction genre, the UdG's CTS announces the call for the

1st 'Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition

under the following rules:

1. Object of the competition and participant requisites.

- a) The 1st 'Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition prize will be awarded to the best humorous short story of the campus fiction genre, a concept that includes any narrative text that tells a story that takes place in a university setting and whose main characters are a part of the university community, and that has a satirical, ironic, sarcastic or humorous register.
- b) The short story must be written in English.
- c) The short story must be between 5 and 15 pages, following the format stipulated in point (2a).
- d) Anybody directly linked to the Catalan university system as a student, professor or member of the administrative staff can take part in this call. The link to the university system must be current in the case of students, while in the case of teachers and administrative staff, those who have had a long career in the university system but are no longer part of it can also submit their work. Stories written by more than one person are also admissible, but in this case all the authors must be currently linked to the Catalan university system.

2. Documentation.

Participants must present the following documentation:

- a) The short story for entry into the competition, compliant with the provisions of points (1a), (b) and (c) of the rules. The short story must be written in Times New Roman with a 12-point font size, and it must be 1.5 spaced, with line alignment, paragraphs separated by a blank line and standard margins.
- b) Document accrediting that the participants belong to the university community on the date the short story is submitted, which will be either an enrolment confirmation or a contract of work.
- c) Signed document authorising the digital publication of the short story on the CTS website, should it win the competition.
- d) Signed document agreeing to take part in any event(s) organised by the CTS to publicise the winning short story.
- e) Signed declaration wherein the candidate states that the short story submitted is wholly original and previously unpublished, and is not a copy or modification, be it total or partial, of any other own or third-party work; that it was written directly in English without using digital translation tools; and that it has not won any other competition.

3. Call deadline and where to submit the application.

Candidates must send the documents stipulated in point 2 to the email address catedratomsharpe@udg.edu, in the following way:

- a) The subject line of the email must say: '1st Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition application.
- b) The main body of the email will contain the name of the author of the short story (or their pseudonym, if they use one), the university to which they are linked and the title of the short story.
- c) The required documents outlined in point 2 of the rules will be attached in pdf format.

Should the author use a pseudonym, only the identity of the winner will be asked to be revealed, by email.

The deadline for submitting stories is 29 February 2024, at 12 midday.

4. Winning short story.

The participant that wins the competition will receive €750.

Aside from the monetary prize, the winning short story will be published on the CTS website. The CTS will also promote the printed edition of the short story.

The competition may be declared void.

The prize cannot be shared among two or more stories submitted. However, at the jury's discretion, up to two runners-up can be chosen, each of which will earn a prize of €250. The runner-up stories, should there be any, will also be published on the CTS website.

5. Decision of the jury.

To reach their decision, the jury will evaluate the literary quality of the stories presented, the capacity to generate humorous content, the extent to which the short story complies with section 1 of these rules, and its linguistic correctness and richness.

The jury will issue their decision on 6 June 2024, the 11th anniversary of Tom Sharpe's death, in a public act to take place in the city of Girona, the details of which will be announced at a later date. The decision cannot be appealed.

6. Jury.

The jury for the 1st 'Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition will be made up of three voting members, who will be announced on the CTS website before the end of 2023. The director of the CTS will act as secretary of the jury and as a non-voting member.

The director of the CTS can make any necessary changes to the composition of the jury should any of the members have to be substituted for causes of force majeure.

7. Other.

If you have any queries or need any clarification about the '1st Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition, please write to the email address catedratomsharpe@udg.edu.

In compliance with the provisions of Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the protection of personal data and the guarantee of digital rights (LOPDGD), the candidates accept that their personal data may be used exclusively for information purposes for other CTS calls and activities. The candidates can, at any time, request in writing that their data be eliminated from the CTS database, at the email address catedratomsharpe@udg.edu.

The CTS is exempt from any responsibility derived from any act of plagiarism or any other breach of current legislation on the part of the candidate(s).

The CTS is empowered to decide on any eventuality that has not been foreseen in these rules.

Participation in the call implies both knowledge and acceptance of these rules.

Girona, 6 June 2023
10th anniversary of the death of Tom Sharpe