

Preamble

Aside from promoting the work and legacy of the writer Tom Sharpe, another purpose of the Tom Sharpe Chair of Literature (CLTS) at the University of Girona is to foster knowledge, appreciation, and engagement with literature in our region.

Tom Sharpe, one of the twentieth century's most popular British novelists, passed away in 2013 in Llafranc (Palafrugell), where he had spent the last twenty years of his life. Renowned for his sharp wit and satire, Sharpe made significant contributions to the tradition of *campus fiction*—a genre characterized by narratives set primarily in university environments, often told in a sarcastic and comic tone. His novel *Porterhouse Blue* (1974) is a notable example, standing alongside the works of other distinguished authors in the genre, such as Mary McCarthy, Kingsley Amis, Tom Wolfe, and David Lodge, among others.

Unlike the first edition of the competition, in which only works written in English could be submitted, this second edition of the CLTS short fiction competition allows members of the Catalan university community to participate in our own language. Therefore, in line with its mission to cultivate narrative writing within our university community and to stimulate the enjoyment of campus fiction, the CLTS at the University of Girona is pleased to announce the call for entries for the

2nd 'Tom Sharp Chair of Literature' Short Fiction Competition

under the following rules:

1. Object of the competition and participant requisites.

- a) The 2nd 'Tom Sharpe Chair of Literature' 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 either in Catalan or English, without preference.
- 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 CLTS website, should it win the competition.
- d) 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 Catalan or 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 secretaria.catedratomsharpe@gmail.com, in the following way:

- a) The subject line of the email must say: ‘2nd 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 short stories is February 8, 2026, at 12:00 a.m. (midnight), Girona local time.

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 CLTS website. The CLTS 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, in addition to the winning story, 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 CLTS website.

5. Decision of the jury.

To make its decision, the jury will assess the literary quality of the submitted stories, their ability to generate humorous content, their alignment with the criteria outlined in section 1 of these rules, and their linguistic accuracy and richness. A positive factor will be the story's capacity to offer a critical perspective on recognizable situations and issues within our university system.

The jury will issue their decision on 6 June 2026, the 13th anniversary of Tom Sharpe's passing, via the CLTS website. The verdict will be final and cannot be appealed.

6. Jury.

The jury for the 2nd 'Tom Sharpe Chair of Literature' Short Fiction Competition will be made up of three voting members: Josep Maria Fonalleras, Xavier Pla, and Matthew Tree. The director of the CLTS will serve as the secretary of the jury and as a non-voting member.

The director of the CLTS 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 '2nd Tom Sharpe Chair' Short Fiction Competition, please write to the email address secretaria.catedratomsharpe@gmail.com.

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 secretaria.catedratomsharpe@gmail.com.

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. In case of any conflict in interpretation, the matter will be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the city of Girona.

Girona, 14th July 2025

Winners of the 1st edition:

“The Welcome Speech”, by Júlia Moore i Trias

Runner-up: “The Club”, by José Antonio Donaire Benito