CORNERSTONES
LITERARY CONSULTANCY

Since 1998, Cornerstones has been helping authors jump from the slush pile to representation and publication with a range of competitive, bespoke packages, carried out by a team of top editors. We do this by offering comprehensive editorial services and acting as scouts for agents. We also have a division in America that opened in 2016, making us the first transatlantic literary consultancy.

Whether you're in the early stages of a draft, have revised several times, are ready to submit, or are seeking one-to-one mentoring with an experienced industry editor, Cornerstones can help.

We select our editors carefully. Some are agented and published authors; others have worked within the industry for years as commissioning editors, publishers or agents. Matching you with the right editor is a crucial part of the process.

- Our **Core** editors are agented writers and experienced editors, many of whom also teach creative writing.

- Our **Market** editors have worked in publishing for a minimum of three years, are already established authors, and may teach creative writing or freelance as book reviewers.

- Our **Industry** editors have worked in a publishing house or agency for many years at a senior level (commissioning editors, editorial directors, senior agents); or are bestselling authors.

We filter submissions, only taking on material we feel has potential and is at the self-editing stage. Send us your synopsis or proposal and opening ten pages, and we'll reply with an evaluation of your work and our recommendations for your next steps. Please read on for our full list of services and rates.

www.cornerstones.co.uk
www.cornerstonesus.com

Editorial services: developmental

Manuscript assessment

This service provides a manuscript with specialist attention and involves a developmental critique (8–12 pages approx), plus a 60-minute consultation with the editor post-report. This service is ideal if you have agent or publisher interest, are on the cusp of being published, or are looking for a more hands-on editorial approach.

Marked-up manuscript

This service involves a read-through and mark up of the full MS, plus a 2-page summary report. The marked-up manuscript is perfect for authors who want to know if they're on the right track with their draft or revised MS but don't require a full report. Please note that this package is not as intensive as a line edit; do contact the office directly if you're not sure which is best for your needs.

One-to-one workshopping

If you are looking for one-on-one support, workshopping is a great option. You can use it however you want to, whether it's reading your full MS or just a few scenes; working through Show Don't Tell; brainstorming your plot; or preparing your submission package.

Submission package review

The submission package review is a service that looks at your query letter, 1-page synopsis and up to 10,000 words double-spaced to assess whether your package is ready to send to an agent or editor. This service is intended to provide you with a view of the story's marketability in the current market, as well as a review of how well your current pitch is working.

Line editing

This involves a close read of your MS, in which the editor will redline and mark-up your pages. Every sentence will be scrutinised, and the editor will, among other things, mark-up any language that doesn't work, run-on sentences, inconsistencies, weak passages, make cuts to unnecessary scenes or dialogue, etc. They will also make editorial comments on anything that they feel doesn't work in a larger sense, and highlight any content, pacing, or narrative problems that the book might still have, including plotting and characterisation.

Editorial services: final stage

Copy-editing

A copy-editor will check material for grammar, spelling, style and punctuation issues before it's prepared for proofreading. They will correct errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, style and usage, overlong sentences and overuse of italic, bold, capitals, exclamation marks and the passive voice. They correct or query doubtful facts, weak arguments, plot holes and gaps in numbering. In fiction, they also check inconsistencies and continuity errors, highlighting any changes that need to be made/addressed.

Proofreading

A proofreader will work with the nearly finished text. They look for any typographical errors or remaining grammatical errors. They do not suggest major changes to the text but look for any errors in spelling, or grammar or style, and make those corrections. The presumption is that once the editor has done this, and any changes are then approved and made by the writer, the text is ready for publication.

Editorial services: online editing course

How to Edit Your Novel the Professional Way

Over 18 weeks, take your novel from first draft to submission-ready with our Edit Your Novel online course, run in collaboration with Professional Writing Academy. The course covers: plan and plot, characterisation, POV, effective dialogue and description, show-stopping scenes, page-turning pacing, Show not Tell, and how to catch an agent's eye. By the end, you'll emerge a pro in self-editing, with a concrete submission package and a list of agents who are open to receiving queries.

This course is in line with our book *On Editing: How to Edit Your Novel the Professional Way*, by Helen Corner-Bryant and Kathryn Price (John Murray, May 2018). Order here.

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Rates (excluding VAT*)

Please note that you must contact the office directly with your full MS for a proofreading, copy-editing, or line editing quote.

Editor tier	Manuscript assessment	Marked-up manuscript	Workshopping	Submission package review
Core	$500 up to 25k words; $1000 up to 50k words; $20 per 1k words thereafter	$300 up to 25k words; $600, 25k – 50k; $12 per 1k words thereafter	$80/hr (minimum 4 hours)	$450
Market	$650 up to 25k words; $1300 up to 50k words; $26 per 1k words thereafter	$500 up to 25k words; $1000, 25k – 50k; $20 per 1k words thereafter	$150/hr (minimum 4 hours)	$600
Industry	$1000 up to 25k words; $2000 up to 50k words; $40 per 1k words thereafter	$750 up to 25k words; $1500, 25k – 50k; $30 per 1k words thereafter	$320/hr (minimum 4 hours)	$1000

Scouting for literary agents and submission process

If your editor recommends your manuscript for submission to literary agents, we'll let you know that we'd like to consider this, post revision, when we send you the editorial report/finished mentoring. Once you've redrafted, you'll post and email us the first 50 pages which the team will consider. **There is no charge for the submission process. However, there is a 10% remuneration on a publishing deal, on a no win/no fee basis.**

NB: All genres considered with the exception of picture books. Please contact the office for more information.

Privacy Notice

It's necessary at times for us to communicate via email when assessing your material for reports and editor correspondence. We log your email on our GDPR-compliant platform. We never share your details with third parties. All work with us is completely confidential.

Please do refer to our [FAQs](#) on our website for our submission process and terms and conditions prior to committing to Cornerstones.

Finally, please don't hesitate to get in touch to talk through any of these packages so we can find the one that will work best for you. We look forward to hearing from you!

NB: Please note that Cornerstones will manage the relationship between the author and the editor throughout the process. As such, it is against company policy for authors to request to work with an editor privately; any service or rebooking must come through Cornerstones. Do contact the team directly if you'd like to top up your hours.