

Our top tips for a successful submission

1. Try to refine your work as much as you can before approaching an agent. Take the time to read it thoroughly and edit where necessary, and make sure it is well presented in an easily legible typeface. While our agents are happy to edit their clients' work, the better shape your book is in at this early stage, the more likely we are to want to represent you.
2. If you are writing a novel, especially a debut novel, it is usually advisable to complete your manuscript before submitting the first few chapters for consideration.
3. Once you think your work is ready to be shown, try to make your submission to the agent you feel is likely to be the best fit for you and your work. Our agents' profile pages, Twitter, online interviews and the Acknowledgements pages in relevant books can be helpful in finding out more about us. However, some agents are less 'public' than others and our client lists speak most eloquently of our tastes and interests.
4. Please do not submit to more than one agent at the agency. If we feel a submission is likely to be better received by a colleague, we will pass it on.
5. In your covering letter, it is helpful to show that you have thought about where your book might sit in the marketplace. Are there recent, successful books to which your book could be compared, or whose readers you would hope to attract? Including relevant comparisons in your submission will help us understand how you see the book and how we might pitch it to others.
6. When writing a synopsis for your novel, make sure you tell the whole story from beginning to end (as it occurs in the novel) in the clearest and most concise way possible. You can read Lizzy Kremer's blog on synopses [here](#).
7. If we decide not to offer you representation, it is possible that your work is not yet ready for publication. However, there are other reasons we may feel we're not the right agents for you, which have nothing to do with the viability of your work. We might already represent a book similar to yours, for example, and feel unable to represent both projects. Also, if an agent is very busy with their existing client list, they offer representation to new clients quite rarely.
8. Be patient, and resilient. Agents exist to help introduce good new writers to publishers, and although we receive a lot of submissions, every single one is considered with optimism and an open mind. We wish you the very best of luck in your journey to publication.