

## Our top tips for a successful submission

1. Don't be tempted to send your work out to agents too soon. Take the time to read it through and edit your manuscript until you are completely happy with it. While our agents are happy to edit their clients' work, the better shape your book is in, the more likely we are to want to represent you.
2. With fiction, it is usually advisable for creative reasons to complete your manuscript before submitting the first few chapters for consideration.
3. As detailed above, it's worth trying to make your submission directly to the agent at the agency you feel it is the best fit for you and your work. Our agent pages, Twitter, online interviews and the acknowledgements pages in the backs of 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. When thinking about where your book fits in the current market, it can be helpful to think of comparison titles. What books or authors out there might your book sit alongside? Including relevant comparisons in your cover letter will help us understand how you see the book and how we might pitch it to others.
5. 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. Include all the central characters and events, but don't get bogged down with smaller details, sub-plots and tertiary characters. You can read Lizzy Kremer's blog on synopses [here](#).
6. If we decide not to offer you representation, it's possible that your work is not yet ready for publication. However, it is also sometimes the case that it's 'not you, it's us' – we might already have something that's too close to your work, and feel unable to represent both. Also, if an agent is very busy with their existing client list, they offer representation quite rarely. We wish you the very best of luck in your journey to publication.