**How To Hire a Freelance Copyeditor**

Compiled by Sara Saylor, University Writing Center, UT Austin

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**Where to Start**

* Read Wendy Laura Belcher’s overview, “How to Hire and Work with an Academic Copyeditor”: [wendybelcher.com/writing-advice/how-to-hire-copyeditor/](http://www.wendybelcher.com/writing-advice/how-to-hire-copyeditor/)
* Send a query email early in the process, even before your project is ready to review. Ask the editor about rates, time frames, and options for reviewing your chapters one at a time.

**Standard Editorial Rates**

Source: Editorial Freelancers Association. [the-efa.org/res/rates.php](http://www.the-efa.org/res/rates.php)

“These should be used only as a rough guideline; rates vary considerably depending on the nature of the work, the time frame of the assignment, the degree of special expertise required, and other factors. The industry standard for a manuscript page, however, is a firm 250 words.”

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Work** | **Estimated Pace** | **Range of Fees** |
| EDITING |  |  |
| Editing, basic copyediting | 5-10 ms pgs/hr | $30-40/hr |
| Editing, heavy copyediting | 2–5 ms pgs/hr | $40–50/hr |
| Editing, developmental | 1–5 pgs/hr | $45–55/hr |
| Editing, substantive or line | 1–6 ms pgs/hr | $40–60/hr |
| PROOFREADING | 9-13 ms pgs/hr | $30-35/hr |
| TRANSCRIBING | variable | $2.50-$4/  audio minute |
| TRANSLATING | 300-500 wds/hr | $40-50/hr |
| NOTE   ind = indexable page, ms = manuscript, pr = printed, pg = page, hr = hour, wd = word | | |

***Wendy Belcher’s Suggestions:***

* “T average rate at which copyeditors edit is 4 pages (or 1,000 words) per hour.”
* “First, review the manuscript you would like copyedited. Make sure that it is clean. If your footnotes have never been spell-checked, spell-check them. If your references are not standardized, fix them. You do not want to pay someone else to fix things you could easily have fixed yourself. Second, once you have fixed what you can, identify exactly how many pages are in your manuscript (don't guess, divide the total electronic word count by 250 words). Divide this figure by 4 (pages an hour) to arrive at the likely total cost of copyediting.”
* 200-page dissertation = 50 hours x $30 = $1500.

**Finding An Editor**

**Austin Area:**

Caroline Barta

*Email:* [carolinebarta@utexas.edu](mailto:carolinebarta@utexas.edu)

*Education:* Ph.D. in English Literature, University of Texas (expected 2019); M.A. in English Literature, Boston College; B.A. in Great Texts and Classics, Baylor University.

*Experience:* Five years of tutoring / teaching English and Writing, including four years teaching writing courses at the college and graduate level. 2+ years experience working in an academic office in marketing, publishing, and copy-editing. Fluent with Chicago, MLA, and other major style manuals. Available for copywriting, copyediting, and proofreading. Past tutoring and writing experience includes helping non-native English speakers find fluency and greater ease with their writing.

Jaime Deblanc-Knowles, Fresh Ink Consulting - jdeblancknowles@gmail.com

*Web Site:* jaimedeblancknowles.com/freshink/

*Education:* MA in Creative Writing, UT Austin

Stephen Dadugblor - steve.dadugblor@utexas.edu

*Experience:* I am a PhD student in English and an Assistant Instructor in UT’s Department of Rhetoric and Writing, with considerable experience in the editing and proofreading of theses and dissertations. Last fall, I provided theses and dissertation editing services in the areas of finance, management, and engineering for Red Pen Bristol, a British text solutions company. I bring precision, attention to detail, and a five-year editorial experience to these texts.

Liz Demott - liz.demott@gmail.com

*Education:* PhD in English, UT Austin

Jeffery Downs - [jefferyjeffery13@gmail.com](mailto:jefferyjeffery13@gmail.com) / [832-475-4599](tel:832-475-4599)

*Web site:* [jefferytdowns.com](http://jefferytdowns.com/)

*Education:* BA Humanities, MA Rhetoric and Composition

*Experience:* I currently teach Honors Rhetoric and Composition at St. Edwards, in Austin. I have taught Rhetoric and Composition at TXST, and also served in the Writing Centers of St. Edward's, TXST, and University of Houston-Downtown. In addition to my academic experience, I have worked as the lead writer/proofreader for a small Houston newspaper, and have 20 years experience in litigation support, which encompassed much proofreading, editing, writing, copywriting, etc. I have proofed everything from depositions to dissertations. I am eager to talk with you and tailor my services to your project.

Lisa Gulesserian - [lgulesse@gmail.com](mailto:lgulesse@gmail.com)

*Education:* PhD in English (UT Austin)

*Experience:*Lisa will help you edit your dissertation, thesis, essay, grant application, website copy, scholarly article, personal statement, resume, or technical manual. She welcomes editing projects in all fields (though art, music, language, design, food, history, and literature are her beloved specialties). In the past nine years, Lisa has edited dissertation chapters; issues of academic journals; successful humanities grant applications; scientific personal statements; blog posts; translated documents and videos; and how-to manuals.

Laura Issen - [laura.issen@gmail.com](mailto:laura.issen@gmail.com)

*Education:* PhD in English, UT Austin (2000)

*Experience:* I am currently an adjunct instructor at St. Edward's, teaching writing. I also have a private tutoring business--I tutor all levels in writing, critical thinking, reading comprehension etc. I earned my PhD in English at UT Austin in 2000. My focus was Caribbean Literature. I have been teaching writing for over 20 years.

Helen Novielli - [helen@personalproofreading.com](mailto:helen@personalproofreading.com) / [(512) 655-3348](tel:(512)%20655-3348)

***Education:*** Master’s Degree from Texas Woman’s University

*Experience:* I have over five years’ experience as a proofreader/editor, and over ten years’ experience with editing, proofreading, and content creation in a business setting. My areas of expertise include Social Sciences, Humanities, Business, and Education. Focus is placed on spelling, grammar, punctuation, and accuracy of vocabulary. Suggestions are made on style, sentence construction and flow, and overall readability. I will edit/proofread term papers, theses, dissertations, articles for publication, personal statements, and novels. I’ve worked with many ESL students and am always happy to work with more!

Joanna Thaler - joanna.thaler@gmail.com

*Education:* PhD in English, UT Austin

Amy Vidor - [amyvidor@utexas.edu](mailto:amyvidor@utexas.edu)

*Web site:* amyvidor.com

***Education:***BAs in English and French, Minor in Art History (USC), MA in History and Literature (Columbia), PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature (UT)

***Experience:*** 5+ years of editing experience. Prior work in: English literature and language, French literature and language, history and social sciences, specializing in adherence to style guides, grammar, and maintaining a consistent voice.

Austin Freelancersfreelance-austin.org

Yellow Bird Editorsyellowbirdeditors.com/academic-papers

**Outside of Austin:**

Editorial Freelancers Associationthe-efa.org

Cascadia Editorscascadiaeditors.com inquire@cascadiaeditors.com