STUDENT DESIGN AWARDS RSA

Entry Rules and Guidelines:
RSA Student Design Awards 2017/18

The RSA Student Design Awards is a competition run by the RSA, a registered charity in England and Wales (212424) and Scotland (SC037784). By entering the competition, entrants agree to comply with these rules.

Key dates

August 2017 – Briefs launch online + registration opens

Mon 15 Jan 2018 – Competition opens for submissions via sda.thersa.org

Wed 14 Feb 2018, 4pm GMT – Deadline for 'early bird' submission at reduced entry fee of £25

Wed 14 March 2018, 4 pm GMT – Final deadline for online registration + submission (£35 entry fee)

Wed 21 March 2018 – Judging begins (2 stages: shortlisting + interviews with finalists)

Tues 22 May 2018 – Winners announced

June 2018 – Awards Ceremony

Eligibility

The competition is open to currently enrolled students and new graduates from anywhere in the world.

1 Undergraduate and postgraduate students from any higher education institution, college or university are eligible to enter.
2 New graduates can enter within a year of graduating – anyone who has graduated in or after March 2017 is eligible.
3 Entries are accepted from both individuals and teams. Teams can comprise students from different courses and universities, and there is no set number of people that can be part of a team – but generally team entries comprise two or three people.
4 We accept entries that have been developed as college/university coursework, and we also accept projects that have been developed independently (outside of coursework) as long as the entrant meets eligibility criterion 1 or 2 above.
5 Entries must respond to one of the 2017/18 RSA briefs and must be the original work of the entrants.
6 Entrants may only enter one brief, but may submit more than one response per brief. Each response is considered to be a separate entry and will require completion of a separate submission form and payment of the relevant fee.
7 Candidates who are contracted to work for a company after graduation may not be eligible for some Industry Placement Awards.

Submission Requirements

All entries must be submitted through our online entry system, accessed via www.thersa.org/sda

If you are unable to submit online, please contact us by email at sdaenquiries@rsa.org.uk

As you prepare your submission, please ensure that:
– You do NOT include your name, university/ college or other identifying marks anywhere on your submission
– None of your submission files exceed 10Mb – this is the maximum size for each individual file / board when you submit online

The submission requirements are:
– 1 x A3 PDF Hero image with 1 sentence description
  A singular 'poster image' that conveys the essence of your project, plus a 1 sentence strapline or description
– 1 x A3 PDF Big Idea Summary
  A single A3 PDF page describing your 'Big Idea' in less than 250 words. This should clearly explain what your solution is, the specific area of need it addresses, and how you arrived at the solution
– 4 x A3 PDF Boards Outlining Your Proposal
  4 pages describing your proposal and demonstrating that you have met the 6 judging criteria. Each board should include a heading. Number each board in the top right hand corner, in the order they should be viewed by the judges.
– 10 x A3 PDF Pages of Supporting Material
  Up to 10 A3 PDFs of additional material illustrating your development process – this could include scanned pages of your sketchbook or computer modelling/sketches (if applicable).
– Optional YouTube / Vimeo + website links
  Please note that we cannot guarantee supporting films and websites will be viewed at the shortlisting stage. If you have created digital materials, we recommend referencing them (for example by including labelled film stills or website screen grabs) in your 4 main PDF boards.
– For the 2017/18 'Working Well' brief ONLY: 1-2 page A3 PDF Business Case
  You must also submit a business case in addition to the above. The business case should not exceed two pages and may include diagrams and/or charts as appropriate.

For details on the submission requirements for the 'Moving Pictures' brief, please see the Additional Eligibility and Entry Guidelines for Moving Pictures. Please note that late submissions will not be accepted and all entrants are encouraged to submit their work in good time before the deadline.

Entry fees

There is an entry fee for submitting work to the RSA Student Design Awards. This fee is charged per entry, so it does not cost more to enter as a team. Entry fees should be paid online through our submissions form, via PayPal, credit or debit card.

– Early Bird Rate – for entrants submitting their work before or on 14 February 2018, the entry fee is charged at the reduced early bird rate of £25 per entry.
– Standard Rate – after 14 February 2018 and until the final submission deadline on 14 March 2018, the entry fee is £35.
– Voucher Codes – universities have the option pay for students' entries. In order to do this, tutors should visit the 'Tutor' page on our website and complete the web form to request a voucher code. It is the responsibility of the tutor to distribute the voucher code to students, which they should then enter at the payment point when completing the online submission form.

The RSA is under no obligation to refund payments except under the circumstance of technical error where refunds will be made at the RSA's discretion.

Competition process

There are six stages to the RSA Student Design Awards competition.
1 Briefs released – August 2017
There is a range of RSA Student Design Awards briefs to choose from, each focusing on a different social, economic or environmental issue. You can view all the 2017/18 briefs in the 'Design briefs' section of the RSA Student Design Awards website.
2 Register your interest – from August 2017
Once you've registered your interest, you will receive key updates and information from us. We'll remind you about deadlines, keep you informed on the judging process and shortlisting, and let you know when the winners are announced. We'll also send you invitations to free events and materials we offer participants to help you with your projects and your longer-term career development.
3 Develop your project – from September 2017
When you've decided which brief to enter, as a starting point we recommend you review the supporting materials in the online toolkit for your chosen brief. You can find the toolkit from the individual briefs pages on our website.
4 Submit your work – January to March 2018
Once you have finished your project, submit your completed work to the competition through our online entry system. Make sure you submit it before the final deadline: Wednesday 14 March 2018 at 4pm GMT. You will receive a confirmation email when we receive your submission.
5 Judging – March to May 2018
Your work will be judged in a two-stage process by a panel of practising designers, Royal Designers for Industry, and industry experts including sponsors. Submissions are judged according to the brief that they entered. During the first stage, 6 to 10 projects will be shortlisted for each brief. If your project is shortlisted, you are invited to an interview with the panel to further discuss your work, your design process and your ambitions. Once the panel has interviewed all shortlisted students, they deliberate and select the winner/s.
6 Winners announced and Awards Ceremony – May to June 2018
The winners of each brief will be announced publicly by the RSA on 22 May 2018. Winners will also be invited to attend an Awards Ceremony at the RSA House in central London in mid-to-late June, and their work will be displayed in the 'Showcase' section of the RSA Student Design Awards website. If a placement at a company is awarded as the prize, this will take place over the following months, but it is up to you to arrange a time that works for you and the company.

Judging and awards

Each RSA brief is judged by a different panel of relevant experts comprising practising designers and representatives from industry, including representatives from the sponsoring organisation/s.

Judging sessions

The judging of each project takes place over two non-consecutive sessions: shortlisting and interviews.

At the shortlisting session, the judging panels view all the submissions anonymously and draw up a shortlist. Shortlisted candidates are invited for interview (in person if possible, or via video conference) at which they will discuss their competition entry and some of their other work with the judging panel.

We welcome entries from candidates outside the UK but additional funding is not available to pay for travel and accommodation costs where overseas candidates are shortlisted for interview. We will pay up to the amount of £80 if travelling within the UK, or £120 if travelling from other countries (inclusive of VAT) for shortlisted entrants to come to the RSA in London for interview. Where travel to London is not possible for shortlisted students, we will arrange interviews by video conference. Judging panels are asked to make an award only when they are entirely satisfied with the design ability of the candidate. The RSA reserves the right to withhold or divide any of the awards offered, and the panel may also award commendations. In all cases the judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into by the RSA.

Placement Awards

Some awards enable winning candidates to spend time working in a consultancy or in industry on design related projects. Placement Awards offer work experience accompanied by a grant to support living expenses and can be a valuable introduction into different fields, sectors and industries. Details of these awards are available on each brief and on the website. For students applying internationally, Placement Awards are subject to the entrant's right to work in the UK.

Cash Awards

Cash Awards allow the winning student to use their prize towards funding further study, travel to research design in other countries, equipment, business start-up costs or any other purpose agreed with the sponsor and the RSA. All awards must be claimed within six months of award and winners are required to write a short report for the RSA detailing how they used their award.

Awards Ceremony

All winners will be invited to attend an Awards Ceremony at the RSA – this is a large, celebratory event that includes a keynote talk by a high profile figure, a presentation of the awards, and a drinks reception with networking.

Fellowship of the RSA

All candidates who win an award through the RSA Student Design Awards programme will be offered complementary Fellowship of the RSA valid for one year from the time it is activated. RSA Fellowship enables winners to connect to the RSA's global network of Fellows, engage with RSA events and projects in their local area, access the RSA's Catalyst Fund and crowdfunding platform on Kickstarter, and to make use of the restaurant, bar and library at the RSA House in central London. More information about RSA Fellowship can be found at https://www.thersa.org/fellowship

Intellectual Property

The intellectual property rights (patents, registered designs, unregistered design right, copyright, etc) of all designs submitted in the competition remain with the candidate. If any sponsor wishes to make use of the work submitted in the competition, a licence or transfer must be negotiated with the candidate. Whilst the RSA claims no intellectual property rights, it does reserve the right to retain designs for exhibition and publicity purposes and to reproduce them in any report of its work, the online exhibition and other publicity material (including the RSA Student Design Awards website).

In the case of work carried out during a Placement Award, different conditions will apply. Candidates should note that certain intellectual property rights (eg patents) may be irrevocably lost if action to register them is not taken before any disclosure in exhibitions, press material etc.