

New Voices in cultural relations

Submission guidelines and competition rules

Context

The British Council's aim is to support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We do this through a range of cultural relations activities. The overall outcomes of cultural relations are greater connectivity, better mutual understanding, more and deeper relationships, mutually beneficial transactions and enhanced sustainable dialogue between people and cultures, shaped through engagement and attraction rather than coercion¹.

Through this prize, we aim to engage and amplify new thinking in International Relations, particularly as it aligns to the aims of cultural relations as defined above: increased understanding and sustained dialogue between people and cultures.

Overview

A prize for a Master's dissertation which provides new scholarly insight and/or offers a new policy direction that makes an original contribution to international relations. The prize recognises and promotes the achievements of students on Master's programmes in international relations in the UK. We are looking for dissertations within the academic discipline of international relations or any of its subfields including international political economy.

The scheme is an opportunity for institutions to promote their programmes and for recent graduates to establish themselves in the field.

This is a partnership initiative between the British Council and the British International Studies Association.

Participating universities

Institutes teaching Master's level courses on international relations in the UK.

Eligibility

To be considered for the prize the dissertation must have been completed/marked in the 2022-23 academic year at a tertiary level institution in the UK recognised as an accredited degree-

¹ <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-insight/value-cultural-relations>

awarding body. Any submission will have received the best MA/MSc prize at the university Or been marked at distinction (70+) level. The dissertation can be completed in any mode (e.g. full-time, part-time or distance learning).

Only one entry per institution is allowed. No participant may win more than one prize.

Entry to the Competition is free of charge, although participants/institutions are responsible for their own costs of connecting to the internet.

Does eligibility depend on nationality?

No, the scheme is open to all Master's students at UK universities. The nationality of the student is not relevant.

Can students apply directly?

Only UK institutions can apply. Only one entry can be submitted from each institution. If an institution mistakenly submits more than one dissertation, we will check with you to agree which you wish to submit. If the institution is unable to reach a decision as to which entry they would want to submit, all entries will be declined.

Call for entries

Each institution/Head of Department can submit ONE dissertation, from academic year 2022-23, which:

- Has received the best MA/MSc prize at the university
OR in the absence of such an internal competition
- has already been marked at merit or distinction level or judged by course leaders to be of high quality, and which the course leader would wish to submit on its merits.

Impact would be defined as the potential to make an original significant contribution to the field of international relations and/or the potential to change the attitudes, practices, or policies.

The British Council will publish the best dissertations and summaries and also organise other dissemination activities to amplify these new voices.

The Prize

The prize categories are:

- **British Council/BISA New Voices in Cultural Relations Prize (number of prizes - one)**

The winner gets:

- a paid for place at the BISA conference in June 2024 at Birmingham. NB The prize includes the conference fee only; any other expenses (such as travel and accommodation) will have to be covered by the winner
- a certificate signed by the British Council and the British International Studies Association
- a memento
- one-year BISA membership

- a chance to say a few words at the BISA conference, and on a short video clip
- a chance to present their ideas and discuss with other academics and practitioners in this area, at a panel discussion (online/hybrid) hosted by the British Council in September/October 2024.

- **British Council/BISA Special Commendation for Essay in Cultural Relations (number of prizes - four)**

The winners of a special commendation will get:

- a certificate signed by the British Council and the British International Studies Association, and
- One-year BISA membership

All five winners mentioned above will have their essays compiled into a publication. Overall, the winning and commended essay writers will benefit from the opportunity of raising the profile and visibility of their work, reach a wider audience and engage with peers and other stakeholders as part of dissemination activities.

We will also generate a DOI for the winning essays, which will help their work being found and cited by other researchers and readers.

The benefit to the institution would be profiling their institution, and the International Relations courses offered by them.

Key timelines

What?	When?
Call for essay announced	8 January 2024
Deadline for submitting essays	12 February 2024
Announcement of results and participation of winner at BISA conference	5-7 June 2024
Panel discussion and publication launch hosted by the British Council	September/October 2024

Application process

The application will be submitted by the institution on behalf of the student.

Please complete the online nomination form which requires you to submit the following documents:

1. The dissertation – to ensure impartial evaluation, the dissertation should be entirely anonymised with no references to author, tutor or university throughout. The essay should not contain any branding or other reference to the author or the submitting institution. Font written in Arial 12, single-spaced with a line between paragraphs. The document should be in MS Word or PDF format.
2. An abstract and a short support statement (100 words max) that explains the impact (written by the academic submitting the entry), should be sent with the dissertation. In addition to summarising the dissertation, this should address the issue of potential for impact. Impact would be defined as the potential to make an original significant

contribution to the field of international relations and/or the potential to change the attitudes, practices, or policies.

3. A covering letter on headed paper with the name and email addresses of the submitting university, the member of staff submitting the dissertation, plus confirmation that the dissertation was marked at distinction level, signed by the submitting academic.
4. You will also need to confirm permission from the dissertation author. You will need to confirm the following during completion of the online nomination form:
 - Agree to the submission and permission to publish their essay
 - Have read and agree to the submission guidelines and competition rules
 - Understand from 'Personal Data' section of the 'Submission Guidelines and competition rules' document how their personal data will be processed and that they consent to the use of their personal data in the manner set out in this section

Applications which do not submit all documents listed above will not be accepted.

Deadline for applications: Monday 12 February 2024 23.59 hours

Entries must be submitted via <https://www.bisa.ac.uk/members/awards-and-prizes/new-voices-cultural-relations-prize/new-voices-cultural-relations-prize-nomination-form>

Personal data

The British Council and the British International Studies Association (BISA) will collect and store the names, institutions and email addresses of all participants and their supervisors (submitting the entry). The British Council and BISA will use this personal data for the following purposes:

- managing the relationship between the participants/participating institutions and the British Council.
- communicating with participants to answer their queries about the competition.
- communicating with winners and arranging delivery of their prize.
- marketing and publicity in accordance with the section below.

By participating in the Competition, participants consent to their personal data being processed by the British Council and BISA in accordance with, and for the purposes set out in this section.

Participants can exercise their rights to access their personal data held by the British Council and withdraw their consent to the processing of their personal data by sending an email to researchglobal@britishcouncil.org, accompanied by a scanned photocopy of their valid passport (or relevant government ID).

Any personal information that we collect, store, transfer and process is done so in accordance with international good practice and UK law. BISA and British Council will store the data electronically in accordance with their privacy policy.

Publicity and rights

The British Council and BISA intend to publish the names and photographs of the winners on their websites, Facebook pages, Twitter pages, press releases and in other promotional and marketing material. In addition, both organisations may write and publish articles about the winners' experience of their prize. By entering the Competition, each participant agrees to the use

of their name and image and agrees to co-operate with any such publicity or marketing if they win a prize.

Participants will retain copyright in the entry material that they submit to the British Council and BISA. By entering the Competition, each participant grants the British Council and BISA, free of charge, permission to use the entry material (including, without limitation, modifying and adapting it for operational and editorial reasons) in any media worldwide for purposes connected with the Competition. Participants who win a prize grant the British Council and BISA further permission to publish and exhibit their entry material (including, without limitation, modifying and adapting it for operational and editorial reasons) in print and any media worldwide for any British Council purpose. Each participant confirms that the entry material is their original work, is not defamatory and does not infringe any English laws, that they have the right to give the British Council and BISA permission to use it for the purposes specified above, and that all necessary consents for the submission of the entry material have been obtained.

All rights in the British Council's name and logo, websites, Facebook pages, Twitter pages, press releases and other promotional and marketing material and all course and examination content and materials (together the "**Council's Materials**") shall vest in and remain with the British Council (or its licensors). By participating in the Competition, participants agree that they will not use, broadcast, publish, export, exploit, reproduce nor copy part or all of the Council's Materials.

What is the evaluation process?

The essays will be judged by experts from the field. Essays will be scored on:

- Originality
- Writing style
- Knowledge of the subject
- Potential to change attitudes, practices, or policies

The decision of the evaluation panel will be final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

What is the deadline for submitting entries?

The deadline is 12 February 2024. We recommend that you submit your essay well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical or other complications. Late entries will not be accepted.

Acceptance of Competition Rules

The British Council may disqualify or refuse to accept the entry of any participant which does not meet the eligibility criteria or does not otherwise comply with these Rules.

These rules shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and the courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any disputes or claims (including, without limitation, non-contractual disputes or claims) arising out of or in connection with the competition.

By participating in this competition, participants are deemed to have accepted the above submission guidelines and competition rules.



Contact

For any questions other than those covered in this document, you can send your query to researchglobal@britishcouncil.org, with '**NVCR2223 – Query**' mentioned in the subject line.