

Entry requirements (Briefs 1-5)

Open briefs

The competition will open for entries via sda.theresa.org on 31 January 2024, and the final deadline for entries is 16 March 2024 at 4.00pm GMT.

Submission requirements

For all briefs EXCEPT the Centenary celebrations brief, the submission requirements are:

1 x A3 PDF hero image with a one sentence description – a single 'poster image' that conveys the essence of your project and includes your project title plus a one sentence description. For example: 'Bare technology: a product and service design proposal to convert old computers (e-waste) into simpler, more straightforward, accessible computers for older people'. Your hero image should aim to bring your concept to life – make sure it is vibrant and engaging. Your one sentence description is very important, make sure you take some time to craft an impactful message.

1 x A3 written summary – a single A3 PDF page that summarises your big idea using the following format:

- **Problem (50 words max).** What is the specific problem you identified within the brief topic? Who experiences this problem, and how does it impact them?
- **Process (75 words max).** How did you investigate this issue and what were your key insights? What journey did you go through to get to your final proposal?
- **Proposal (50 words max).** What is your proposed intervention? How will it address the problem?

Online entry

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 PDF submission files exceed 10MB – this is the maximum size for each individual file/board when you submit online.

We are open to submissions in alternative formats - such as audio or video. Please contact us for more information if this would help you participate.

4 x A3 PDF boards outlining your proposal – 4 pages describing your proposal and responding to the 5 sections of the judging criteria. Number each board in the top right-hand corner in the order they should be viewed by the judges. You may include relevant hyperlinks in your boards, however we cannot guarantee this will be viewed by the panel.

For details on the submission requirements for the Centenary celebrations brief, please see the Centenary celebrations entry requirements and guidelines. 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 requirements

(Brief 6)

Centenary celebrations

The competition will open for entries via sda.theresa.org on 31 January 2024, and the final deadline for entries is 16 March 2024 at 4.00pm GMT.

Submission requirements

You may include relevant hyperlinks in your boards, however we cannot guarantee this will be viewed by the panel. Please note that late submissions will not be accepted, and all entrants are encouraged to submit their work in good time before the deadline.

Moving image response submission requirements:

1 x animation file submitted in either MP4 or MOV format – the maximum file size is 60MB, and your animation must not exceed 2:00 minutes. You may choose the ratio or dimensions for your video that best convey your message.

1 x A3 PDF hero image with a one sentence description – a single poster image that conveys the essence of your project and includes your project title plus a one sentence description. For example: 'Age pride, an animation that highlights the negative stereotypes our western culture has of older people and argues that these views are wrong and outdated, emphasising the message that age really is just a number and is not what defines us'. Your hero image should aim to bring your concept to life – make sure it is vibrant and engaging.

4 x A3 PDF pages of supporting material illustrating your development process – the purpose of this material is to show to the judges the thinking behind your design choices and the work required to complete your style of animation. One of your pages must show your final animation storyboard. One of your pages must show your storytelling decision-making process and clearly show your audio clips choices. You could share further relevant information about your concept and research process, scanned pages of your sketchbook, storyboarding development etc (if applicable).

Online entry

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 PDF submission files exceed 10MB – this is the maximum size for each individual file/board when you submit online.

We are open to submissions in alternative formats - such as audio or video. Please contact us for more information if this would help you participate.

Textile response submission requirements:

1 x A3 PDF hero image with a one sentence description – a single 'poster image' that conveys the essence of your project and includes your project title, plus a one sentence description. For example: 'Bare technology: a product and service design proposal to convert old computers (e-waste) into simpler, more straightforward, accessible computers for older people'. Your hero image should aim to bring your concept to life – make sure it is vibrant and engaging. Your one sentence description is very important, make sure you take some time to craft an impactful message.

1 x A3 written summary – a single A3 PDF page that summarises your big idea using the following format:

- **Problem (50 words max)**. What is the specific problem you identified within the brief topic? Who experiences this problem, and how does it impact them?
- **Process (75 words max)**. How did you investigate this issue and what were your key insights? What journey did you go through to get to your final proposal?
- **Proposal (50 words max)**. What is your proposed intervention? How will it address the problem?

4 x A3 PDF boards outlining your proposal – 4 pages describing your proposal and responding to the sections of the judging criteria. You must show detailed prototyping and visual development. One of your pages must include information indicating how you intend to deliver your proposal with details on time, production and budget. Number each board in the top right-hand corner in the order they should be viewed by the judges.

Centenary celebrations

Entry guidelines

1. Entrants working on the Centenary celebrations, brief and chosen Moving image response brief must create an animation that visually communicates the audio excerpt. Animation is defined as a simulation of movement created by displaying a series of pictures or frames. The submission may be any type of animation, including digital or traditional animation like cartoons or stop-motion of paper cut-outs, puppets, clay figures, and more.
2. Entries must be submitted in either MP4 or MOV format.
3. The maximum file size is 60MB.
4. Your final animation must not exceed the following length: 2:00 minutes overall
5. If you use music and/or sound samples you must own the rights to use the material.
6. The decisions of the judges are final, and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into.
7. The RSA reserves the right to refuse any entry in its sole discretion. No entry may contain unlawful or potentially libellous, defamatory, or disparaging material.
8. The RSA also reserves the right at any time during the competition to remove or disqualify any film when it believes in its sole discretion that the entrant has:
(i) infringed any third party's copyright, (ii) does not comply with these eligibility and entry guidelines, (iii) failed to obtain the necessary consents as set out in these terms and conditions.
9. Entries should be submitted via the RSA Student Design Awards competition platform by 16 March 2024, 4.00pm GMT.
10. This is an international competition. Please see the Entry Rules for more information on eligibility requirements.
12. We welcome submissions from anywhere in the world, but all entries must be in English. A transcript is available, and we encourage entrants to use free translation software to assist with their interpretation.
12. In order to enter, an entrant must upload their animation file to the RSA Student Design Awards online entry platform, which opens for submissions on 31 January 2024.
13. The entrant must be the original creator of the Moving image animation and must have obtained the necessary permissions for the inclusion of copyrighted music and/or images within the film. The film must not infringe the rights of privacy and publicity, copyright, trademarks or intellectual property rights of any person or organisation.
14. If the entrant uses any material or elements in the Moving image animation which are subject to the rights of a third party, the entrant must obtain prior to submission of the film the necessary consents from such party to enable the RSA to use and showcase the animation. Such consent(s) shall be at the expense of the entrant. A non-exhaustive list of such material or elements include: name, voice and likeness of any person appearing in the film, location shot, eg specific building, any props and set dressings and any audio and/or audio-visual material which the entrant does not own.
15. By entering this competition, entrants agree that the RSA and our sponsoring partners may: (i) showcase their Moving image animation on their website and the RSA YouTube channel, as well as any other media in connection with the RSA Student Design Awards; (ii) use their names, likenesses, photographs, voices, sounds and/or biographical information and films for advertising, publicity, and promotional purposes without additional compensation. Intellectual property rights of all entries submitted in the competition remain with the entrant. All Moving image animation submissions will be showcased at RSA House as part of a film festival.
16. The entrant agrees that the RSA shall not be liable for any claims, costs, liabilities, damages, expenses, and losses arising out of (i) the RSA's use of the film; (ii) the entrant's participation in the competition; (iii) technical failures of any kind including, but not limited to, problems or delays arising from software or equipment malfunctions or computer viruses; (iv) any events outside the RSA's reasonable control.

Competition entry rules

Entry rules

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

Our 2023–24 general requirements are:

Eligibility

1. Current undergraduate and postgraduate students from any post-secondary, adult learning education institution, apprenticeship, college/university or equivalent are eligible to enter.
2. Recent graduates can enter within one year of successfully completing their post-secondary programme – anyone who has graduated in or after March 2023 is eligible.
3. Entries are accepted from both individuals and teams. Teams can comprise of students from different courses, and there is no set number of people that can be part of a team. If you are applying as a team, all team members must meet the above criteria. If you are unsure about eligibility, please reach out to the team by email at sdaenquiries@rsa.org.uk to see if we can support your participation.
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 2023–24 RSA briefs and must be the original work of the entrants.

Submitting your work

All entries must be submitted through our online entry system. The competition will open for entries via sda.thersa.org on 31 January 2024, and the final deadline for entries is 8 March 2024 at 4.00pm GMT.

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

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.

Early bird rate – for entrants submitting their work before 4.00pm GMT 16 February 2024, the entry fee is charged at the reduced early bird rate of £25 per entry.

Standard rate – after 16 February 2024 and until the final submission deadline at 4.00pm GMT 16 March 2023, the entry fee is £35.

Voucher codes – universities and other education providers/institutions have the option pay for students' entries. In order to do this, educators should visit the Educator page on our website and complete the web form to request a voucher code. It is the responsibility of the educator 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.

If you are an educator who's struggling to pay for their students, please get in touch by email at sdaenquiries@rsa.org.uk to find out more about bursaries that may be available to you and your students.

Bursary - a student bursary is open to applications across the globe who may have difficulty paying the entry fee but wish to participate. This bursary covers the cost of the submission fee to the 2023–24 Student Design Awards. We have up to 30 bursaries available. To be eligible for this bursary applicants must comply with the entry criteria:

- You are a current undergraduate or post-graduate student in a post-secondary, adult learning education institution, apprenticeship, college/university or equivalent.
- You are a recent graduate who has successfully completing your post-secondary programme in the past year.
- You are passionate about design for social change.
- You feel that the entry fee to the Student Design Awards would be difficult for you to cover for affordability, currency or exchange rate reason.

The deadline to apply for the bursary is 28 February 2024 at 11.59pm GMT. [Find out more and apply here.](#)

Competition process

Process

There are six stages to the RSA Student Design Awards competition.

1. Briefs released – September 2023. There are 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 2023–24 briefs in the [Design briefs](#) section of the RSA Student Design Awards website.

2. Register your interest – from September 2023. Once you sign up to our newsletter, 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 2023. 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 2024. 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: 16 March 2024 at 4.00pm GMT. You will receive a confirmation email when we receive your submission.

5. Judging – March to May 2024. Your work will be evaluated per brief by a curated panel of judges against the judging criteria in a two-stage process: shortlisting and interviews. The panel includes a diverse range of expertise related to the brief topic and the design industry. All judging sessions are facilitated by the RSA. During the first stage of shortlisting, the panel marks all the submissions anonymously and shortlists five to eight projects per brief. If your project is shortlisted, you are invited to the second stage, an interview with the panel, to present your work in more detail referring to the judging criteria. Once the panel has interviewed all shortlisted students, they deliberate and select the winner(s).

6. Winners announced and awards ceremony – June 2024. The winners of each brief will be announced publicly by the RSA in June 2024. Winners will also be invited to attend an awards ceremony in June 2024, and their work will be displayed in the Winners section of the RSA Student Design Awards website.

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.

Cash awards

Cash awards allow the winning students 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.

RSA Fellowship

All candidates who win an award through the RSA Student Design Awards programme will be invited to join our Fellowship, with their first year sponsored by the RSA. As a Fellow, winners can 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 make use of the restaurant, collaboration space and library at the RSA House in central London. More information about RSA Fellowship can be found at 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 license 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).