

Entry requirements (Briefs 1-8)

Open briefs

The competition will open for entries via sda.thersa.org on 24 January 2022, and the final deadline for entries is 9 March 2022 at 4.00pm GMT.

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

Submission requirements

For all briefs EXCEPT the Moving Pictures brief, the submission requirements are:

1 x A3 PDF hero image with a one sentence description – a singular '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 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 Moving Pictures brief, please see the Moving Pictures 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 9)

Moving Pictures

The competition will open for entries via sda.thersa.org on 24 January 2022, and the final deadline for entries is 9 March 2022 at 4.00pm GMT.

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.

Submission requirements

For the Moving Pictures brief, the submission requirements are:

1 x animation file submitted in either MP4 or MOV format - the maximum file size is 60MB, and your animation must not exceed the original audio file length plus 5 seconds. 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 singular 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. Share further relevant information about your concept and research process, scanned pages of your sketchbook, storyboarding etc (if applicable).

Moving Pictures

Entry guidelines

1. Entrants working on the Moving Pictures 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 use the full audio track in its current format (you may not change the order of the wording).
3. For the Moving pictures brief, the shortlist will include projects from both audio files. The panel will evaluate the submissions using the specific judging criteria for this brief.
4. All shortlisted entrants will be interviewed by the judging panel and the winners will be selected.
5. Entries must be submitted in either MP4 or MOV format.
6. The maximum file size is 60MB.
7. You are permitted to add up to 5 seconds of pauses before, during and/or after the original audio if desired. Your final animation must not exceed the following length: 1:13min for 'Ambitious cities' or 1:18min for 'Act together'.
8. If you use music and/or sound samples you must own the rights to use the material.
9. The decisions of the judges are final, and no correspondence or discussion shall be entered into.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Entries should be submitted via the RSA Student Design Awards competition platform by Wednesday 9 March 2022, 4.00pm GMT.
13. This is an international competition, open to current college/university students and new graduates within one year of graduation. Please see the Entry Rules for more information on eligibility requirements.
14. We welcome submissions from anywhere in the world, but all entries must be in English. A transcript of each audio file is available, and we encourage entrants to use free translation software to assist with their interpretation.
15. In order to enter a film, an entrant must upload their animation file to the RSA Student Design Awards online entry platform, which opens for submissions on 24 January 2022.
16. The entrant must be the original creator of the 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.
17. If the entrant uses any material or elements in the film 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.
18. By entering this competition, entrants agree that the RSA and our sponsoring partners may: (i) showcase their animations 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.
19. 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 2021-22 general requirements are:

Eligibility

1. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from any higher education institution, college or university are eligible to enter.
2. New graduates can enter within one year of graduating – anyone who has graduated in or after March 2021 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 2021-22 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.

Submitting your work

All entries must be submitted through our online entry system. The competition will open for entries via sda.thersa.org on 24 January 2022, and the final deadline for entries is 9 March 2022 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, via PayPal, credit or debit card.

Early bird rate – for entrants submitting their work before 4.00pm GMT 9 February 2022, the entry fee is charged at the reduced early bird rate of £25 per entry.

Standard rate – after 9 February 2022 and until the final submission deadline at 4.00pm GMT 9 March 2022, the entry fee is £35.

Voucher codes – universities 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.

Global bursary - a limited needs-based global student bursary is open to applications from our competition launch. This bursary covers the cost of the submission fee to the 2021-22 Student Design Awards.

The bursary is available to candidates who reside internationally (outside of the United Kingdom) who have difficulty paying the entry fee but wish to participate. There are limited bursaries available and to be eligible for this bursary applicants must comply with the entry criteria. See the [Global Bursary Application](#) for additional details.

Competition process

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

1. Briefs released – August 2021. 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 2021-22 briefs in the [Design briefs](#) section of the RSA Student Design Awards website.

2. Register your interest – from August 2021. 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 2021. 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 2022. 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 9 March 2022 at 4.00pm GMT. You will receive a confirmation email when we receive your submission.

5. Judging – March to May 2022. 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 – May to June 2022. The winners of each brief will be announced publicly by the RSA in June 2022. Winners will also be invited to attend an awards ceremony on 29 June 2022, 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 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.

Pilot or placement awards

Some awards enable winning candidates to spend time working in a consultancy or in industry on design related projects. Placement awards offer paid work experience 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.

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).

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.