

Graduate School – Science Writing Competition 2017

Do you have a passion for bringing science to the general public? Do you have a talent for getting people excited about your research? Are you looking for a chance to showcase your writing skills? Would you like to see your work in award-winning Glasgow science magazine The GIST?

The College of Science and Engineering Graduate School is seeking submissions for our Science Writing Competition, open to all current research students within the College. This is an excellent opportunity for students to flex their writing muscles, and see their articles printed and distributed in and around the University.

The Brief

The ability to inspire interest and engagement in people outwith the science community is a useful and often undervalued skill. Not only can engaging writing encourage new generations of scientists to enter the field, but it also helps raise awareness of the contributions science continues to make.

The Graduate School is looking for articles written in the style of a popular science article, with the aim of publicising some of the research work being undertaken within the University. The article should focus on a topic within your area of research, though not necessarily on your specific project, or on a wider issue within your research field. The work should make sense as a standalone piece.

Judges

The entries will be judged by our panel of experts:

- Professor Muffy Calder, Head of College
- Dr Alfredo Carpineti, IFL Science
- Dr Jamie Gallagher, Public Engagement Officer
- Professor Darren Mark, Science & Engineering Graduate School Board

Last year's winning entry is available at <https://the-gist.org/2016/09/a-new-dawn/>

Prizes

The winning entry will be published in The GIST (the-gist.org), Glasgow's largest science magazine.

The top ten entries will be published in a brochure showcasing the College's current research.

Brief feedback will be provided to all entrants if possible (depending on number of entrants).

The winner will receive £250.

Deadline

The competition will be open until Thursday 23rd February 2017 at 17.00, after which the judges will review the submissions and contact the entrants with the results. It is anticipated that decisions will be announced within two weeks but this depends on the volume of entries.

Submission Guidelines

- Entries should be submitted to scieng-gradschool@glasgow.ac.uk, no later than the above deadline. Entries submitted after the deadline will be disqualified.

- Entries should be at least 600 and no more than 2000 words long, including references and title.
- Up to five references can be included in your article, with appropriate citations.
- You should submit your entry as a Word document, with 11pt Calibri or Arial font, double spaced with an extra line between paragraphs. Please include page numbering and a note of your student number on each page, but do not identify yourself otherwise within the document.
- Diagrams, photos and sketches are permitted in moderation - be sure not to include anything that you don't have a right to reproduce, ie, do not include material subject to copy right.
- Any articles that show evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified.

Tips

- The judges will be looking for bright, engaging, accessible writing which not only clearly explains the research but also frames it within a wider context. There are many resources online which can help you write with style and effectiveness, such as this series by the Guardian: theguardian.com/science/series/secrets-science-writing
- Above all, make sure to ask someone to read over your entry before submitting. The best choice may be someone who isn't in your field and already familiar with your work, as they'll be in a better position to highlight anything that would be confusing to a member of the general public.