



RTS Student Television Awards 2025

June 2024

Message from the Chair

“The RTS Student Television Awards have a proven track record in discovering and nurturing the next generation of world class talent in video production, film making and television journalism.

They provide a fantastic opportunity to have your ambition and creativity recognised and celebrated by top media professionals and crucially, for you to sell your skills to people at the very top of the broadcasting industry.

Put simply, winning an RTS Student TV Award is a real badge of honour on any CV and one that is taken incredibly seriously by professionals.”.

Sinead Rocks, Channel 4 Managing Director, Nations & Regions
Chair of the RTS Student Television Awards

Criteria

The RTS Student Television Awards encourage, nurture, support and reward talent, potential and enthusiasm of students in colleges and universities for the creation of film and video content.

With new filmmaking techniques and opportunities, the RTS believes that these Awards provide a fantastic way to celebrate and recognise your outstanding skills, ambition and creativity and a unique opportunity to put your creative talents before the critical eye of professionals, win recognition for your skills, and even “audition” for a first job in the television, media and film industry.

- Entries will be accepted from any students enrolled with higher education colleges, universities and institutions in the UK and Ireland only.
- Each submission must be accompanied by an entry fee: this is £30 + £6 VAT. Total £36 per entry per category. A VAT receipt will be issued on receipt of payment.
- The RTS pays due recognition across all its awards to the need for diversity. It is important that these awards should reflect diversity within the student community and within wider society.
- The judges will look for strong story-telling, creativity, innovation, outstanding visual and aural creativity, high quality craft skills, all with a strong emphasis on originality.

PLEASE NOTE: Criteria changes for RTS Student Television Awards 2025:

- **Factual – Short Form and Factual – Long Form** entry clip times have changed. **Factual – Short Form** entries cannot be longer than 11.59 minutes. **Factual – Long Form MUST** be 12 minutes with a maximum length of 30 minutes.

Awards Process:

Entries must have been made between 1 November 2023 and 31 October 2024. The closing date for submission is **Monday 4 November 2024**.

Judging of these entries will be in two parts. Undergraduate entries are judged first by the RTS regional centre (including the national centres of Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland) in which your educational institution is based. They select a winner and the winners are announced at an Awards Ceremony in your region.

All regional winners then go through to National Judging, taking place in April 2025, alongside all Postgraduate entries, (which qualify automatically for UK national assessment and are not judged at RTS centre level), to decide on the national nominations for presentation at the RTS Student Television Awards Ceremony 2025 in June 2025.

At both a regional and national level, industry practitioners will view and judge all entries and the nominated films will be invited to the relevant Awards Ceremony,

where they will get the opportunity to network with the judges and other professionals, as well as the chance of winning a RTS Award.

Award Categories:

For these Award Categories, two awards will be presented:

- i) **Undergraduate**
- ii) **Postgraduate**

Animation

This award is for videos which are primarily cartoons, stop motion, computer or electronically generated images. Where the animation/CGI sequence or sequences are part of a production with other portrayal, the judges will consider primarily the quality of the animated/CGI sequences.

Judges will look for technical competence, originality and the ability for the animation to enhance the way a story can be told or a message conveyed.

Entries can be any length but **MUST** be no longer than 30 minutes in length.

Entertainment and Comedy Drama

This award is for entertainment or factual entertainment films. Comedy dramas and other situation comedies may be entered here.

Judges will look for technical excellence, humour where appropriate, pace and audience interest and engagement.

Entries can be any length but **MUST** be no longer than 30 minutes in length.

Drama

This award is for scripted fiction work, which may be on any subject or style.

Judges will be looking for a strong storyline, with a script which helps portray and possibly develop characters, direction which adds value to the script, and a range of technical and production competences to deliver a memorable dramatic effect.

Entries can be any length but **MUST** be no longer than 30 minutes in length.

Factual - Long Form

This award is for films of any subject matter and style, which can include either specialist factual programmes or documentaries.

Judges will look for technical competence (camerawork, sound on location, mixing and dubbing, editing, direction), a strong story and engaging presentation.

Entries **MUST** be longer than 12 minutes with a maximum length of 30 minutes.

Factual - Short Form

This award is for films of any subject matter and style, which can include either specialist factual programmes or documentaries.

Judges will look for technical competence (camerawork, sound on location, mixing and dubbing, editing, direction), a strong story and engaging presentation.

Entries **CANNOT be** longer than 11 minutes and 59 seconds.

Journalism

This award is for filmed reports of university news, news from the wider community or studio-based features. The entries could include short reports, sports related stories, longer feature pieces in which journalism is the key.

Entries are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the aim of television news journalism to report the "who, what, when, where, why and how" in ways that will really engage the audience using video storytelling by camera, sound and where appropriate, devices such as mobile phones. For sports reporting, we are looking for films that innovate and surprise; shining a light on an issue or a subject that may be new to viewers.

Entries can be any length but **MUST** be no longer than 30 minutes in length.

Saving the Planet

From *Blue Planet* to *Springwatch* and much else, television programming now reflects the overwhelming public interest in the environmental and sustainability – in short the importance of saving the planet for future generations. We are looking for factual or fiction entries which explore these issues: for example, global warming, the environment, wildlife, climate change and sustainability. The jurors will be looking for entries which engage, inform or stimulate a response in a compelling way.

An entry could focus on saving a particular species from extinction or shedding light on new or innovative ways to advance sustainability. Entries can be scripted or unscripted as long as the focus is on a topic inside the very broad definition of saving the planet. If you are unsure whether your entry fits the category, please contact the RTS.

Entries can be any length but **MUST** be no longer than 30 minutes in length.

Craft Skills Awards:

To reward excellence in craft skills, awards will be presented to the person or people responsible for the following Craft Skills at the judges' discretion for the following:

- **Camerawork**
- **Editing**
- **Production Design**
- **Sound**
- **Writing**

Direct entries are not accepted for these craft skills but are awarded from the relevant category nominations. At a regional level, the Craft Skills Awards will be chosen from the regional nominations in each category. At the national level, the Craft Skills Awards will be chosen only from the national nominations in each category.

Conditions of Entry

1. These Awards are open to all students enrolled with higher education colleges, universities and institutions in the **UK and Ireland only**.
2. It is important to ensure you are submitting your very best work and that your entry is pertinent to the particular category. The Society reserves the right to **not make an award** in any category if it is felt that submissions do not reach a high enough standard.
3. For each Award Category, two awards will be presented: **Undergraduate** and **Postgraduate**.
4. Subject to the number of entries received, additional awards categories may be presented at the discretion of the RTS.
5. Entries must have been made between 1 November 2023 and 31 October 2024. **The closing date for submitting entries is Monday 4 November 2024.**
6. The National Awards Ceremony will be held in June 2025 and the dates for Regional Awards Ceremonies will be made known in due course.
7. The RTS pays due recognition across all its Awards to the need for diversity. It is important that these awards should reflect diversity within the student community and within wider society.
8. All entries must be submitted using the RTS Awards System: <https://awardsentry.rts.org.uk/entrant>
9. Students must ensure the safeguarding editorial policy guidelines are followed. For information, here is a link to BBC's policy guidelines <https://www.bbc.co.uk/editorialguidelines/guidance/children-young-people-working/>
10. There are no limits to the number of entries that can be submitted by an individual or educational institution, but the same film cannot be submitted more than once.

11. Each submission **must** be accompanied by an entry fee: this is £30 + £6 VAT. Total £36 per entry per category. A VAT receipt will be issued on receipt of payment.
12. All entries must be made by bona-fide students, either individuals or working in teams. Although tutors and other non-students may act as mentors, supervisors, and advisors, they cannot have undertaken any operational role in the entry, including directing or producing. The information accompanying the entry should make explicit any involvement of a tutor or other non-student. They should not on any account receive an on-screen credit. Any entry found to have breached these rules will be disqualified.
13. Entries in the Undergraduate categories will be judged in two stages: **Regionally** and **Nationally**. The winner in each category from each RTS Regional Centre will be eligible for RTS national judging which will take place in April 2025.
14. If you're unsure of which RTS Centre to select when filling out the entry form, [please look at this spreadsheet which specifies most of the main Universities & Colleges that fall under each Centre in the Nations and Regions](#).
15. Where a university or college has multiple campuses in different parts of the country, entries to the Student Award should be sent to the RTS Centre where the main campus, that confers the qualification is located not the local campus. For example, if University College London had a campus in Leeds, entries would be submitted to RTS London not RTS Yorkshire. If you are still unsure which Centre to submit your entry under, please contact Jemima Debenham at jdebenham@rts.org.uk.
16. In addition to broadcast, the RTS will seek to showcase all national nominations on the RTS YouTube Channel. Where script, sound and visual material which is not the property of the producers is used, the entering institution **must clear all copyright and rights**, providing evidence where needed.
17. It is condition of entry that the RTS is entitled to use excerpts from all films for non-broadcast promotion of the RTS, the RTS Student Awards competition and the RTS Student Awards events and reserve the right to use these excerpts for publicity purposes.
18. Please let the RTS know should you **not** wish your film uploaded for online use should it be nominated nationally.
19. The RTS reserves the right to move entries between categories. Initial acceptance of an entry does not guarantee its eligibility in the category for which it was entered.
20. The RTS reserves the right to refuse entries if, in the opinion of the RTS, they do not fulfil category requirements of the Rules of Entry.
21. The decisions of the judges at both regional and national level are final. Neither correspondence nor discussion concerning any decision may be entered into.

At regional level, judging arrangements will be made by the appropriate RTS regional centre.

22. No responsibility is taken for entries that are lost, delayed, misdirected or incomplete or cannot be delivered or entered for any technical or other reason.

23. The rules and regulations remain at the absolute discretion of the Royal Television Society and may be changed at any time.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL ENTRIES ARE CHECKED THOROUGHLY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND MAKE SURE THAT SOUND AND VISION ARE PRESENT THROUGHOUT.

In the event of any queries, please contact the RTS Events Department:

Email: events@rts.org.uk