

# The Eureka Submission Criteria 2026

## Competition question

How can physics help make your home ready for the future?

Competition Opens: Monday, 9 March 2026

Competition Closes: Monday, 8 June 2026

## Submission Guidelines

- Submissions should show students interacting with physics creatively and in a way that we might not expect.
- Videos should be no longer than 60 seconds; files no more than 10MB and pieces of writing no more than 600 words.
- AI tools may be used for idea generation or support, but the final submission must be the student's own original work. A brief declaration of AI use must be provided at submission.

## Judging and prizes

- The winning entry will receive £1,000/€1,200. Group entrants will share the prize between team members.
- Two entries deemed to be runners-up in the competition will each be awarded a cash prize of £500/€600. In the case of a group entry, the prize will be shared equally among the team members.
- There will be six prizes of £250/€300 awarded to an outstanding individual entry from a participant in each age category, from 11 to 16. Team entries are not eligible for these prizes.
- Every project entered will be reviewed by a judging panel. Judges will assess the submissions by the following criteria:
  - Relevance: does the submission respond to the brief?
  - Originality and creativity: is the submission one of a kind, in form and content?
  - Quality: is the submission technically correct and well made?
  - Representation: does the submission reflect the values of the campaign?
  - Slides: We recommend 5-10 slides (maximum 15). These should be exported as a PDF and kept under 10MB.

- Videos: Videos should be no longer than 90 seconds. If more than one video is uploaded, the combined duration must not exceed 90 seconds. Files must be no more than 10MB.
- Writing: Pieces of writing should be no more than 600 words.
- Music entries: If you submit an audio track, please also upload the lyrics as a separate text or PDF file. Lyrics are not counted toward the 600 word limit for written pieces.
- Representation of Scientists: we encourage entries to feature non-stereotypical scientists, including lesser-known, diverse figures from a range of backgrounds, identities, and disciplines (e.g., engineers, technicians, data scientists, ecologists). Consider how your entry challenges clichés regarding who is shown doing science, what they wear, and where science happens.

## Terms and conditions

1. These are the guidelines and full terms and conditions for the 'The Eureka's' competition. By submitting an entry, you are confirming that you have read and accept these terms. The competition is run by the Institute of Physics ('IOP') of 37 Caledonian Road, London, N1 9BU, UK.
2. By submitting an entry, you grant IOP a royalty-free, worldwide, irrevocable right to publish and distribute the entry on its YouTube channel under a Creative Commons Attribution-NoDerivatives 4.0 International Licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>) and on its websites and social media accounts. IOP shall be entitled to modify the entry as necessary in order to exercise this right of publication.
3. Entrants must be aged between 11-16 years old at the time of their entry submission.
4. All entries must be submitted by a parent/carer or teacher on behalf of the entrants. We will not be able to judge entries submitted by students and will only communicate with the parent/carer or teacher making the submission. Please ensure that all entries are in compliance with your school's safeguarding policy.
5. If the entry is being submitted by a teacher, they must ensure that they have first obtained, in line with the school's usual parental consent procedures, the necessary consent from the parent/carers of the entrants to submit the entry and for it to be used as set out in these terms.

6. For group entries, team members must all go to the same school – but can be in different classes, forms, or years.
7. Entries cannot be unfinished at the time of entry. We will not allow entries to be amended at a later date, so please submit completed entries only.
8. It is the teacher or parent/carer's responsibility to inform us of a change of their contact details if they change during the competition. Please do not send us any contact details of the students.
9. The winning entry will receive £1,000/€1,200. Group entrants will share the prize between team members.
10. Two runners up will each win £500/€600 and there will be six prizes of £250/€300 awarded to an outstanding entry from someone at every age, from 11 to 16.
11. The prizes will be announced in June 2026.
12. All prizes will be paid to the parent/carer or teacher who submitted the entry and it is their responsibility to ensure the prize is given to the entrants.
13. If a winning entrant fails to notify IOP of their school, or more than one school is nominated by them, then IOP shall be entitled to nominate or select the suitable school to receive the prize.
14. All prizes are non-exchangeable and non-transferable.
15. If a winner cannot be contacted within 30 days, the entry may be declared void and a new winner chosen.
16. The judges' decisions are final and no appeals can be made regarding the results.
17. Any projects involving interaction with humans or use of hazardous substances or devices must be in keeping with national health and safety guidelines and those of the entrant's educational

institution.

18. IOP cannot accept responsibility for entries which are not received or which are received after the closing date due to technical failure or for any other reason.
19. No entries are allowed from IOP employees or anyone connected with the competition, including their immediate families.
20. IOP reserves the right to change the rules of this competition, or to cancel or amend the competition, without notice.
21. Any entry can be refused and IOP reserves the right not to award some or all of the prizes if the entries do not meet the requirements as determined by the judges.
22. Plagiarism is not allowed: submissions must be the entrant's own original work and must not have been published elsewhere, including in response to other competitions. By entering the competition, the person making the submission confirms to IOP that: (i) the entry is an original work, created solely by the entrant(s); and (ii) the entry does not infringe the copyright or other intellectual property rights of any third party.
23. Use of AI: Entrants may use generative AI tools to support their creative process, but all ideas, explanations and final submissions must be their own original work. Any use of AI must be declared by the parent/carer or teacher at submission.
24. IOP shall not be liable for any costs associated with participating in the competition.
25. Personal data will be processed by IOP in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 see <https://www.iop.org/privacy-notice-cookie-policy> for further details.
26. These terms and conditions are governed by English law.