

The IE Foundation is proud to host the eleventh edition of the IE Foundation Prizes in the Humanities 2026. The aim of these awards is to celebrate the best audio-visual and written work presented by students, alumni, faculty and staff each year.

One of the key aspects that make IE University and its community different is our humanistic vision, our capacity to have a unique voice and view of the world, and to see and express possibilities from a multitude of perspectives. The IE Foundation is pleased to announce these prizes, for students, alumni, faculty and staff to express themselves through literature and art.

CATEGORIES

1. Short story, with two subcategories: English and Spanish.
2. Poetry, with two subcategories: English and Spanish.
3. Short essay, with two subcategories: English and Spanish.
4. Video.
5. Photography, with two subcategories: Open Submission and Series Submission
6. Digital Art.

PARTICIPANTS

All current students, alumni, faculty and staff that form part of IE University (including IE Business School, IE School of Science & Technology, IE Law School, IE School of Politics, Economics & Global Affairs, IE School of Architecture and Design, and IE School of Humanities) can present an original work that has not been awarded another prize.

SUBMISSION OF WORKS

All works must be submitted through <https://www.ie.edu/prizes-humanities/>, by clicking on “present your works”. They shall all be submitted anonymously through the use of a pseudonym to guarantee the impartiality of the jury. These pseudonyms must follow the appropriate etiquette for creative prizes – they cannot be comprised of alphanumeric codes, rude words, or ridiculous expressions that do not uphold the dignity of the prizes. They also cannot reflect the names of existing artists, famous people, or members of the IE University. Works submitted with the participants true name in the “pseudonym” field will be disqualified.

Participants can enter works to different categories, and can submit up to 10 works overall. Both the theme and the pictorial technique or digital creation techniques to be used will be of free choice. Works cannot have been previously submitted to former editions of the Prizes. No allusion may be made to any trademark and in no way may the content of the work be offensive, in the broadest sense. The organization reserves the right not

to accept submissions that, according to its criteria, do not comply with the technical, artistic and/or legal conditions required by the contest, or that contain references or allusions that violate the right to honor, to personal and family privacy and one's own image, respect for the dignity of the person, the principle of non-discrimination based on race, sex, religion, opinion, nationality, disability or any other personal or social circumstance, as well as other established principles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations that may be violated.

DEADLINE

The deadline for this year's edition is May 29th, 2026.

DIGITAL ART

This category includes any original work for which the original image or the manipulation of a source material is executed by the artist using a computer, tablet or other digital device. It can have the form of illustrations, collages or mixed media, 2D/3D art, calligraphy, video creations, web-based art projects, as well as VR or AR content. The jury encourages interactive, experimental mediums and formats of expression.

All digital art submissions must meet the below requirements:

- There is no limitation regarding the software used to create the artworks.
- All submissions must include a full description of the process behind the work, as well as credit all software or platforms used in the creation process.
- If the artwork needs special hardware (e.g., VR goggles, installations) or software to be displayed, the artist must send a video of the experience or any other support that may help the jury experience and understand the artwork.
- VR content must be in the specific format to fit the model of Oculus Quest 2 VR goggles.
- Photography with basic retouching and no elements added must be submitted via the photography category.
- For submissions in video format, the artwork may have no discernible narrative or plot, otherwise it will be considered part of the video category. The jury reserves the right to decide which category the video fits under in these cases.
- Artworks must not be watermarked by any external source, cannot have any company logos, trademarks or otherwise display copyrighted content which does not belong to the participant.

Still Images

- Jpg/png format. 150 dpi or higher (300dpi) is recommended.
- File size must not exceed 10 MB.
- The artwork should be at least 1080 pixels.

Moving Images/Video

- Video format MP4, codec h264.
- Maximum resolution 4k (4096x2160).
- Minimum Resolution: 1920x1080.
- Bitrate 15 to 20Mb/s VO.
- File size must not exceed 1GB.
- Any aspect ratio will be permitted.
- For submissions exceeding submission platform allowance (10 MB), participants must upload the video to **Vimeo, Youtube, or Google Drive** and upload the link to the submission platform.

GIF

- Minimum of 1080 pixels.
- Recommended file size is 10 MB.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Image data files created by the participant with a device capable of taking still images, including smartphones and digital still cameras.

All photography submissions must meet the below requirements:

- Jpg format. 150 dpi or higher is recommended.
- File size must not exceed 10 MB.
- The photograph should be at least 1080 pixels.
- Entry of analog or printed photography is not permitted.
- Participants must own full copyright, including any retouching or other image processing.
- No watermarks allowed.
- Modifications of scale and resolution from the original photograph are not permitted.
- Participants must hold all applicable rights to the final image, including any retouching or other image processing.
- Winners may be asked to provide higher resolution images for publication or display purposes related to the contest.

PHOTO SERIES SUBCATEGORY

- Participants may submit a series between 3-6 photos that follow the above guidelines. Photos in the series must be related through a common theme.

VIDEO

Videos can be documentaries, editorial content or fiction.

All video submissions must meet the below requirements:

- No limit of duration.
- The video must be original and unpublished.
- Video format MP4, codec h264.
- Maximum resolution: 4k (4096x2160).
- Minimum Resolution: 1920x1080.
- Recommended bitrate 15 to 20Mb/s VO.
- File size must not exceed 1GB.
- For submissions exceeding submission platform allowance (10 MB), participants must upload the video to Vimeo, Youtube, or Google Drive and upload the link to the submission platform.
- Audio AAC/mp3.
- Audio sample rate: 44.1 kHz or 48kHz.
- Audio bitrate: 320 Kbps or higher.
- If the quality of the video is too low to be screened and the sound is difficult to understand, the committee will contact the participant to request a higher quality version.

Subtitles

- If the movie is in a third language, entries must include subtitles in either Spanish or English.
- The subtitles must be embedded in the file.

All participating videos must have the authorizations and assignments of copyrights and other owners of pre-existing and original works that are incorporated in them. The participants guarantee that the video do not violate any exploitation rights, or rights of honor, privacy and image, or Intellectual and/or Industrial Property rights and/or any other rights of third parties, and that they do not violate the legislation in force. The organization of the IE Foundation Prizes in the Humanities declines all legal responsibility for the films submitted to the competition and their content.

POETRY

Poems can be submitted in English or Spanish. The jury accepts all forms of poetry, including haikus. Valid entries will consist of a maximum of four sides of A4 in length.

SHORT ESSAY

Essays can be in English or Spanish. We accept editorials (opinion pieces) and personal or academic essays with a maximum length of 5,000 words (including references).

SHORT STORY

Stories can be prose fiction in English or Spanish with a 5,000 word limit for each story.

DISCLAIMER

The IE Foundation reserves the right to turn down submissions that in its opinion do not reflect the spirit of the awards or respect IE's values. These would include, among others, offensive comments regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, profession, incapacity or illness. In the event of not admitting a submission on these or other grounds, IE Foundation reserves the right to explain or contact the author, inviting him or her to make any appropriate amendments.

Acceptance of works will be subject to meeting the conditions outlines above, as well as technical requirements such as legibility, visibility and audibility. Participants whose work does not meet requirements in any way will be invited to make the corresponding amendments. Decisions will not be subject to appeal.

AUTHORSHIP AND ORIGINALITY

The presentation of works generated totally or partially by or with the intervention of any technique or Artificial Intelligence system is not allowed, except in the category of Digital Art, in which case such use should be disclaimed and duly credited by the participant. Participants must confirm that submissions are their own, original work and that the inclusion of any reference to other works does not breach intellectual copyright. In consequence, participants are solely responsible for their works and their content.

Participants may not publish, exhibit or communicate submissions until the jury has announced its decision. Once the results have been announced, the winners will cede the non-exclusive digital and other publication rights to the reproduction of their work free of charge, including distribution by any channel or format, worldwide for the maximum period of these rights. IE will also be permitted to cede them to its Foundation, University, or any other entity that is part of the group, whole or in part, for non-commercial purposes and for the promotion and dissemination of the competition in its different editions, and in general of the activities of the organizers or their groups.

JURY AND VOTING

There will be three juries to evaluate: written categories in English, written categories in Spanish and audio-visual categories.

Each jury will be composed of at least five members designated by IE Foundation from members of IE's board and its teaching staff, as well as from recognized professionals in each category. The composition of said juries will be announced in June. Decisions will be made on a majority basis and in the event of a draw, the president's vote will decide. No appeals against results will be admitted.

PRIZES

The three best works in each category will be awarded a prize. The jury can award an Honorable Mention if deemed appropriate. The prizes, given by the IE Foundation, will be featured in a print edition of all prize-winning entries.

PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

The prizes will be announced in September 2026 and there will be an event. The date, place, and time of the event will be announced in advance. The organizers will inform third parties of the competition and prize-giving ceremony by any means of distribution they judge fit. Among the information that will be divulged are the identity of the participants, photographs or recordings related to their participation in the competition and the winning submissions, and that can be distributed wholly or partially.

PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA

Personal data provided in the application will be processed by Fundación IE, with the purpose, based on the interest of the call and on your application for participation, of its management and resolution, and for promotional purposes. It may also be communicated to and processed by other IE Group entities for the same purpose. Personal data of the prize winners will be published on the IE Group websites and on social networks. The data will be kept during the processing of the procedure for awarding the prize and the claims that may be made. You can exercise your rights of access, rectification, deletion and portability of your data, limitation and opposition to its treatment, as well as not being subject to decisions based solely on the automated processing of your data, when appropriate, sending a written notice to soportededatos@ie.edu. In addition, you may submit a claim to the Spanish Data Protection Agency at the address indicated by the said Agency at any time, when you believe that IE Foundation or other IE Group entity have infringed the rights recognized in the applicable data protection regulation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, you may contact IE's data protection officer at DataPrivacyOffice@ie.edu.