

GRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE PHOTO COMPETITION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Creative brief

- Capture any aspect of living the “life of a graduate researcher” within a single image (i.e., no composite or panelled images).

Image Specifications

- All works must be created with a camera (phone camera accepted);
- All works must not use or include any synthetic or artificially generated images or elements (including generative fill-in post-production);
- All works must not have been created or developed, in whole or in part, using any generative artificial intelligence tools;
- Any editing of entries should maintain the integrity of the original image’s content and context;
- Provide JPEG files no greater than 5MB;
- Ensure your images are of sufficiently high quality and well-exposed, sharp and clear with good contrast for reproduction and printing;
- Photo can be either in landscape or portrait orientation, but the aspect ratio must be 3:2 ratio (1860mm high by 2800mm wide).
- Images will be printed by the organisers for exhibition during the final day of the conference. Images will be printed to a scale of around 3:2 ratio (1860mm high by 2800mm wide). Entries that do not fulfil the ratio and size will be automatically cropped by the organisers.

Submission guidelines

- The competition opens Wednesday 5 August 2026 and closes Friday 16 October 2026. No late submissions will be accepted;
- Eligible students are welcome to submit one (1) entry;
- All entries must be submitted via the [Graduate Research Conference Photo competition form](#).

Prizes

There will be three (3) prize winners:

- First Place - \$300.00
- Second Place - \$200.00
- People’s Choice - \$100.00

All eligible entries will be judged for first and second place by the judging panel and the decision will be final. The panel will judge each entry according to creativity, as well as photography techniques applied. The People’s Choice award will be decided by votes from conference attendees on the final day of the conference (Thursday 5 November 2026).

Winners for all categories will be announced on the final day of the conference (Thursday 5 November 2026) and notified via their student email after the close of the conference.

Competition rules

1. The 2026 Graduate Research Photo Competition runs from Wednesday 5 August 2026 to Friday 16 October 2026. Photos submitted for the competition must be captured between these dates.
2. To be eligible to enter, you must be currently enrolled in (or under examination for) an MRes, MPhil, or PhD program at Macquarie University at the time of the presentation date (Thursday 5 November 2026). Students who are currently on leave from their program will not be eligible unless they

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resume their studies before the closing date. Students whose degree has been conferred prior to the closing date will not be eligible to enter.

3. This is a game of skill. Chance plays no part in determining the winner.
4. Each entry will be individually judged by the judging panel based upon the following criteria:
 - a. Creativity of the submitted photo; and
 - b. Photography techniques applied.
5. Eligible students may submit one (1) entry.
6. All entries that contain any identifiable person in the photograph will need to include a completed Macquarie University Image Consent form ([adult](#), [child](#)) for all identifiable persons to be included in the competition.
7. All entries must be an independent creation by the entrant and free of any claims that they infringe any third-party rights.
8. By entering the competition, the entrant warrants they are the owner of all intellectual property rights in the artwork or have obtained all necessary approvals to permit the use of the photo in any competition. Artwork that infringes intellectual property rights will be immediately removed from the competition. You agree to indemnify the Graduate Research Academy against any costs that the Graduate Research Academy may incur as a result of any intellectual property rights infringement.
9. Entrants may be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that their entry meets the requirements set out in these terms and conditions, including supply of file(s) as recorded by the camera (original RAW files or equivalent).
10. The judging panel and organising committee reserve the right to disqualify any entrant submitting an entry which, in the opinion of the judges and organising committee, has been created or developed, in whole or in part, using generative AI or includes synthetic or artificially generated images or elements (including generative fill in post-production).
11. The judging panel and organising committee reserve the right to disqualify any entrant submitting an entry which, in the opinion of the judges and organising committee, includes objectionable content, including but not limited to profanity, nudity, potentially insulting, scandalous, inflammatory or defamatory images or language. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
12. Macquarie University accepts no liability for any costs incurred in the preparation of any entry or any other losses arising from the entry.
13. The Graduate Research Academy may use the entrant's name and entry for any purpose, including future promotional marketing and publicity purposes.
14. By entering the competition, all entrants will be deemed to have accepted and agreed to be bound by these rules.

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