

Una Europa

Student Award 2026

Imagine it, film it, shape it!

Terms & Conditions

19 January 2026

A. Entrants

- The competition is open to all full-time students (bachelor's, master's, and PhD candidates) of legal age currently enrolled at any member university of the Una Europa alliance. If a participant is enrolled in more than one member university, they must select the institution they are attending in the spring/summer semester (January–July) of the Academic Year 2025/26.
- Members of the organising team and selection juries are explicitly excluded from participation.
- Entrants may only submit one entry; multiple submissions from the same individual will not be accepted. If an entrant submits more than once, the first submission will be the one retained.

B. Entries and Submission Process

Theme

The themes of the contest are:

- The Core Values of Higher Education
- The Evolving Role of the University.

The Una Europa Student Award 2026 invites students to imagine the future of higher education by exploring two central themes: the Core Values of Higher Education and the Evolving Role of the University. We invite you to reflect on what universities should stand for, how student voices should be heard and involved, and how education can prepare us for an unknown future while supporting students not just as learners, but as co-creators of academic life.

Submissions

- **All entries must be received by 23:59 CET on 8 March 2026.** Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- All entries must be submitted by filling out [the submission form](#) located on the [Una Europa Student Award page](#).
- As part of the submission process, applicants will be asked to provide the following information via the official submission form:

- Full name.
- Student email address.
- Home university.
- Level of study (Bachelor's, Master's, or PhD).
- Selected theme. The options are the following:
 - What makes education meaningful in 2040? How should universities help students develop their critical thinking, not just pass exams or earn degrees?
 - What does a university look like when students are genuinely heard? How should power, trust, and decision-making be shared?
 - What responsibilities do universities have toward society, democracy, and ensuring our shared values?
 - How should universities prepare students for jobs that don't yet exist? What does "being ready for the future" really mean?
 - What could universities become if students were co-creators, not just learners? How should students help shape teaching, campus life, and the future direction of universities, and what could that look like?
 - Imagine a day in the life of a future student — how does the university enable balance rather than burnout?
 - Open Category
- A short descriptive text (1700 characters, around 250 words) explaining how the submission relates to the chosen theme. This description, provided in any Una Europa language, may be used in exhibition materials.
- A title for the artwork may be included at the participant's discretion.
- A link to the video submission (e.g. YouTube or Google Drive). The submission must be a video file (30 seconds–2 minutes). The format is flexible: you do not need to appear on camera, and high production quality is not required. If you would like to submit a format not clarified here, please contact the Una Europa Student Award coordinators at future-unilab@uj.edu.pl to discuss your idea.
- A declaration regarding the use of AI tools, if applicable.
- Confirmation of acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all submitted information is accurate and complete.
- Applicants will also be asked to respond to two non-evaluative questions:
 - How they found out about the Una Europa Student Award.
 - Whether they would be interested in learning more about Una Europa and its local or alliance-wide opportunities.

The responses to these questions will be used for communication and outreach purposes only and will not affect the evaluation or selection of submissions.

- Your submission must be your own work. By adding a submission, you affirm that you have explicit permission to use any material included in your submission (i.e., images, music, etc.).
- Any person shown in your submission must agree to its publication. By submitting a contribution, you affirm that all persons appearing in your submission have given their explicit consent to be featured and agree to the publication of this submission according to these terms & conditions.
- It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure that the submission link provided is accessible to the selection committee members until the end of the review process. If a submission cannot be accessed by the deadline or during the evaluation period due to restricted access, broken links, or permission issues, the submission cannot be reviewed and will be excluded from the competition.
- The submission must be original, unpublished, and must not have been submitted to other competitions.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI tools may be used during the creative process, provided this is explicitly stated upon submission.
- The final work must not be fully generated by AI.

Content Restrictions

- Submissions containing offensive or discriminatory content will be disqualified.
- Entries failing to comply with the outlined requirements will be rejected.

C. Jury and Selection Process

- The submissions will be evaluated at two stages:
 - The first stage will be according to the theme of the submission. A group of Una Europa staff and students will shortlist 3–5 top submissions for each theme.
 - The second stage will be the evaluation of the 3–5 shortlisted submissions by jury members, consisting of specialists and experts within each of the themes.
- The final selection will result in five awardees, ensuring diversity across themes, institutions, study levels, and formats.
- The winning entries will be selected based on the following criteria:
 - Submissions will be assessed by the selection committee using the criteria below, each scored on a scale of 1 to 5 points:
 - Creativity of the submission: the extent to which the submission uses the video format creatively and thoughtfully. This includes how the chosen format is used to add value to the idea, and how well the creative approach complements and strengthens the vision presented.
 - Fulfilling the criteria: the extent to which the submission responds clearly and appropriately to the assignment, including alignment with the chosen theme and the overall objectives of the Student Award.
 - Innovation and meaningfulness of the vision: the extent to which the idea presented is original, thought-provoking, and meaningful.
 - Submissions are assessed on the strength and clarity of the concept rather than technical execution. Technical production quality is not assessed; a simple video may score equally well as a highly produced one if the idea is communicated clearly and creatively.
- In addition to the scoring criteria above, the selection committee will take diversity considerations into account when determining the final set of winners, including:
 - Representation of different Una Europa universities
 - Diversity of study backgrounds and levels of study
 - Diversity in the use of video formats and creative approaches
- The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- Winners of the Una Europa Student Award 2026 will be selected by **23 March 2026**. Selected winners will be contacted directly via the contact details provided during submission and will receive further information after this date, including details regarding the programme, next steps, and participation in the Una Europa Student Congress in The Hague.
- **All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process**, including those who are not selected as winners.

D. Prizes

- The Una Europa Student Award 2026 will be awarded to five outstanding submissions, selected across both themes.
- In addition to the winners, selected finalist artworks may also feature in online publications and promotional content.
- Winners will receive funded travel, accommodation and other basic costs to participate in the Una Europa Student Congress 2026 in The Hague, which will take place from 9 to 12 June.
 - Due to programme requirements, winners may be requested to arrive on 8 June in order to fully participate in the scheduled activities.

- Additionally, a pre-meeting will be organised for all winners in advance of the Student Congress to support preparation and coordination of their contribution to the work of the Una Europa Future UniLab.

E. Rights and Responsibilities

- By participating, entrants confirm they have the legal right to use all content within their submissions in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.
- Entrants bear full responsibility for the originality of their work and for securing any necessary permissions for depicted individuals.
- The entrant assumes full responsibility for any legal or intellectual property issues arising from their submissions.
- Entrants grant Una Europa and its member universities a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the videos and related texts submitted in this competition, for educational and promotional purposes, with due attribution.
- Participants of the Una Europa Student Award 2026 will retain the rights to their submission, including the right to delete or withdraw their consent to share. However, this withdrawal will not affect materials already published or used in good faith prior to it.
- By submitting a video to the Una Europa Student Award 2026, you agree to have your submission shared on the digital channels of Una Europa and its partner universities. You further agree that your video can be shared at future events relating to Una Europa.

F. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

- Participation in the contest implies full acceptance of these terms and conditions.

G. Privacy Statement for Una Europa Student Award

Information about you: how we use it and with whom we share it

Una Europa vzw and its partner institutions will use the multimedia material you provide for the purposes of administering the competition of the Una Europa Student Award, to inform you of whether you are a winner, and to share news of prize-winners and their entries with others.

Winning submissions may be made publicly available on the online platforms of Una Europa vzw and its partner universities and may be shared through Una Europa communication channels.

Sharing information

Information about you and your submission will be shared with members of administrative and academic staff within Una Europa. This information will be processed and stored for matters of organization, publication, and promotion relating to the Una Europa Student Award.

We will also share information on prize-winners' names, university, and a link to the submitted contributions with Una Europa vzw and its partner institutions.

We may feature the names, university affiliation, and submissions of winning entries (and, where applicable, shortlisted or runner-up entries) on Una Europa vzw and partner universities' websites and social media channels.

You have the right to withdraw your video submission at any time and without giving reasons.

Una Europa vzw will hold the personal data you provide until the end of Una Futura project. We will store and process this data exclusively in matters regarding the Una Europa Student Award.

Automated decision-making processes

We do not use profiling or automated decision-making processes. A set of selected juries will be involved in any decision reached in relation to your participation in the award. The juries' decisions are final.

Further queries

If you have any questions, please contact the Una Europa Student Award coordinators at future-unilab@uj.edu.pl.