



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY
AT THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB

www.thercs.org

YOUNG COMMONWEALTH COMPETITIONS

WHAT IS THE RCS?

- An educational charity founded in 1868 to promote international understanding.
- The world's oldest and largest **NGO** devoted to the Commonwealth and the host of high-profile events series at its London headquarters.
- A **members' club** with 4,000 members, many of whom are active in international affairs and 70% of whom are directors, CEOs or senior managers.
- An **international association**, with a network of 10,000 members in 70 self-governing RCS branches spread across 43 countries and territories.
- One of London's **premier events venues**. Over 50,000 people pass through the doors of the Club each year at over 1,500 events.



RCS YOUTH PROJECTS

OUR PROJECTS ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, TO REALISE THEIR AMBITIONS AND, WITH AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF THEIR ROLE AS GLOBAL CITIZENS, TO ENGAGE WITH KEY CHALLENGES FACING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.



YOUNG COMMONWEALTH COMPETITIONS



The RCS runs film, photography and writing competitions for young people.

These include the world's oldest and largest schools essay competition in which 40,000+ students take part annually.



OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITIONS

- To promote literacy, expression and creativity among young people by celebrating excellence, imagination and talent
- To develop young people's skills in writing, photography and film-making as they enter the Competitions
- To promote a sense of international understanding among young people through their participation in a global competition that engages with issues of mutual interest
- To give young people from diverse backgrounds a platform to express their views about the world and their dreams for the future
- To stimulate and provoke thought about the issues addressed in the Competitions by disseminating the results to a worldwide audience
- To demonstrate, through the interaction of young people from across the globe, the continued relevance and importance of the Commonwealth to younger generations
- To raise awareness of the Commonwealth and its values, principles and activities



ESSAY



The world's oldest global writing prize for young people, this extraordinary project gives young people a voice by promoting literacy, academic excellence, story telling, reflection, awareness and creativity. Online applications will be encouraged, although postal entries will be accepted to ensure that young people from all parts of the Commonwealth can participate equally. Prize winning entries, which are always of an exceptional standard, are chosen for their originality, imagination, clarity of thought, sincerity of voice, use of language, sound scholarship or well-documented research. Creating an interactive online community of winning essays to encourage young people to comment on them and share their experiences of life in the Commonwealth is an exciting development aim of the competition.

Timescale: Launch in January, deadline for applications in June



PHOTOGRAPHY



Although online digital entries through the photo-sharing website 'Flickr' will be encouraged, participants will also be able to enter by sending in hard copy prints. All entries will be posted openly online so that they can be viewed internationally. Winners will be decided through a mixture of online recommendations by the general public and final judging by a panel of international photographers. The winning photographs will be exhibited in the RCS's art gallery in the Commonwealth Club and other exhibition spaces around the Commonwealth, and will be distributed worldwide through print and electronic media houses.

*Partners: Commonwealth Press Union Trust
Timescale: Launch in January, deadline for
applications in August*

FILM



Ten successful applicants, chosen by the judging panel, are given a seed grant to produce their 3-4 minute film, and these films are then shown worldwide by the RCS's media partners. Hundreds of applicants from film schools, colleges and aspiring individual film-makers are received each year. Future development plans include broadening the appeal of the prize by creating a linked competition for short video clips submitted on YouTube for entrants who will not have benefitted from the seed grant.

Timescale: Launch in January, story-board deadline in March, full film deadline in September

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Our youth programmes make a **big impact** on the lives of thousands of young people across the world. But, like our young participants, **we are ambitious**. We believe our projects have the potential to do much more. **We need your support** to make this possible.

The RCS is seeking partners to help us reinvigorate and upscale our activities.

- We want **ideas** for things we could do, **networks** we could tap into to promote what we do, and **technical assistance** to help us deliver our projects more effectively
- We are also looking for **donations or sponsorship** to support our work
- We already have support from governments and several charitable foundations; we now seek 1 or 2 corporate partners



WHAT WOULD PARTNERS GET?



- The chance to **shape and support** some of the **biggest and most innovative** educational activities in the world.
- The opportunity to promote their interests and **make connections with dynamic young leaders** across a wide range of countries
- **Acknowledgement and branding** in RCS material (e.g. brochures sent to schools around the Commonwealth, the RCS website, packs distributed at the Observance)
- Special **VIP invitations** to RCS events, including the Observance, the Queen's Commonwealth Week reception and our Commonwealth Awards Ceremony
- The chance to **strengthen networks** in the diplomatic community in London
- Complimentary **group membership of the Commonwealth Club**, allowing key staff use of facilities and corporate discounts on venue hire
- The **opportunity for staff to participate** meaningfully in charitable activities

WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE?

To find out more about the RCS, our youth programmes and how we can work together, please contact:

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