

Essay Competition on Ukraine's Domestic and Foreign Politics

Ready to make your mark on a crucial global and domestic conversation?

We invite students to participate in an **Essay Competition entitled "Ukraine's Politics in Times of War"**. This competition offers a unique opportunity to explore Ukraine's policymaking and security challenges while contributing to broader discussions on decolonising the field of Russian and post-Soviet studies.

Competition Focus

Participants are invited to write essays that:

- Examine Ukraine's foreign and security policy, particularly in the context of war.
- Analyse Ukraine's domestic political dynamics, including governance, social resilience, and how internal developments impact foreign and security policy.
- Explore the foreign policymaking processes during conflict and how Ukraine navigates its relationships on the global stage.
- Highlight the importance of shifting academic focus from Russia towards countries like Ukraine that were marginalised in post-Soviet studies.
- Considering the current political and security environment, discuss how UK-Ukraine or Scotland-Ukraine ties can be strengthened.

Why Participate?

Participation in this competition will be valuable to your CV, showcasing your engagement with contemporary global and domestic issues. It is also an excellent opportunity to gain early recognition, as the best essays will be published in leading student-led journals, including Flux: International Relations Review, based at McGill University in Canada, and Leviathan, the University of Edinburgh's premier academic journal.

This competition aims to build cross-cultural knowledge, raise awareness of Ukraine's geopolitical and domestic challenges, and inspire innovative thinking on how the UK and Scotland can contribute to Ukraine's future. Your participation will help reshape the narrative, focusing on Ukraine's agency, resilience, and the complexity of its domestic landscape while critically addressing the legacy of post-Soviet studies that Russia has long dominated.

Eligibility

- Open to the University of Edinburgh and the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv students.
- Undergraduate students from all disciplines interested in international relations, political science, history, and related fields are welcome to submit work.
- Prizes
- Two awards: £200
- Four awards: £50

- Publication opportunity for the best essays in Flux: International Relations Review and Leviathan, top student-led journals in the fields of international relations and political science

Submission Guidelines

- Essays should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words.
- Include a clear argument, supported by research, on the themes of Ukraine's foreign and security policy, domestic political dynamics in Ukraine, or British-Ukrainian/Scotland-Ukraine relations.
- Deadline for submissions: **20 February 2025.**

How to Enter

- Submit your essay in Word format to UkrainePolitics@ed.ac.uk with the subject line "Ukraine Essay Competition."
- Include your full name, university affiliation, name of the degree pursued and your student email address. Only essays submitted with this information included will be considered.

We look forward to your submissions and your unique contribution to reshaping the understanding of Ukraine's role in global and domestic politics!