

Essay Competition on Ukraine's Politics: 2nd edition

Ready to make your mark on a crucial global conversation?

The Ukrainian Politics Network invites students to participate in an Essay Competition entitled "Ukraine on the Global Stage". This competition offers a unique opportunity to explore Ukraine's policymaking 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 contemporary foreign and security policy, including the foreign policymaking processes and how Ukraine navigates its relationships on the global stage;
- Examine Ukraine's environmental and energy policy;
- Analyse Ukraine's domestic political dynamics, including governance, social resilience, and how internal developments impact foreign and security policy;
- Explore memory politics and disinformation;
- Discuss the role of technological advancements in enabling hybrid threats to Ukraine;
- Explore the feminist and eco-feminist perspectives on the war against Ukraine;
- Discuss the shifting focus away from Russia towards countries like Ukraine, which were marginalised in post-Soviet studies;
- Discuss how UK-Ukraine or Scotland-Ukraine ties can be strengthened.

Why participate?

Participating in this competition will boost your CV by demonstrating your engagement with current global and domestic issues. It will not only enhance your academic writing but also develop practical and critical thinking skills essential for careers in journalism, policymaking, and advocacy. The competition offers a great opportunity for early recognition, as the top essays will be published in leading student-led journals, including Leviathan and Diaspora.

This competition aims to build cross-cultural knowledge, raise awareness of Ukraine's domestic and international politics, 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.

AI guidance

Participants in the competition are required to follow the University of Edinburgh guidance regarding the usage of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI): [Using generative AI](#).

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:

- Awards in the range of £50- £200.
- Best essays published in Dïaspora and Leviathan.

Submission guidelines

- Essays should be between 1,500 and 2,500 words.
- Include a clear argument, supported by research, on the themes listed above.
- Deadline for submissions: **4 February 2026**

How to enter

- Submit your essay in Word format to UkrainePolitics@ed.ac.uk with the subject line essay competition "Ukraine on the Global Stage".
- Include your full name, university affiliation, name of the degree pursued and your student email address. Only essays that include this information 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!

