



## Daniel Mervis Prize – terms and conditions

### A Overview

The annual Daniel Mervis Prize is organised by St John's College on behalf of the collegiate University in memory of Daniel Mervis, a former Oxford student who died of an accidental drug overdose. It seeks creative contributions on challenging and difficult topics associated with drug use and its impact on students and on society.

There are two prizes to support: i) the awareness of the impact of drug misuse; ii) the celebration of students who have overcome adversity in any aspect of their life (whether or not connected to addiction).

The true horrors of addiction and drug misuse are not widely understood or recounted by those who have suffered or lost loved ones to the disease. The stigma associated with addiction often means that lessons are not learned and the scale of the problem not known. It is time for an active and open engagement on drug misuse.

### B Submission details

#### 1) Prize for Original Work

Applicants should send in **one** example of work done during the past twelve months. Written work should not exceed 2000 words and no more than six short poems can be submitted as a set of poetry.

The topic for this year's prize is:

***With the stigma attached to addiction and death by drug use, there is limited data on the extent to which mood-enhancing drugs contributed to deaths caused by suicide. What can and should be done to stop this last 'taboo' area?***

***What are the links between mental health and the most vulnerable in our society and the impact of drug use?***

Applicants should send in one example of work done during the past twelve months. Written work should not exceed 2000 words and no more than six short poems can be submitted as a set of poetry.

#### 2) Prize for Overcoming Adversity

This prize is ad hoc. It will depend on students identifying themselves or someone else (with their consent) to receive a prize for something inspirational they have done or for overcoming adversity. There will be one or more prizes in this field.

Applicants should submit a written statement for this prize, not exceeding 2000 words.

Each entry must be submitted electronically by [completing the online submission form](#). Details of how to do this are on the St John's College website ([www.sjc.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sjc.ox.ac.uk)).

You will need to include a description of the piece of work (maximum 50 words). The description will be taken into consideration by the judges when making their decision.

Images submitted should be of high quality (ideally between a minimum of 2mb and a maximum of 30mb) and in a digital format a minimum of 300dpi (for example, JPG). Texts should be submitted in PDF format.

Winners should submit any winning image in a high-resolution format. Images can be downsized for submission but winners will be required to provide a high-resolution version of their submitted image.

## **C Deadlines**

Entries can be submitted until 17.00 on 13 January 2023.

Judging will take place in January and winners will be announced in Hilary Term 2023.

The winner(s) will be awarded cash prizes of £250 for 1st place, £150 for 2nd place, and £100 for subsequent awards.

By entering this prize you are deemed to accept these prize rules and the terms and conditions.

## **D Judging panel**

Applications will be judged by a Prize Committee consisting of the Assessor, President of St John's College, Mr Hilton Mervis, and the Vice-President (Welfare and Equal Opportunities), Oxford SU. The selection process is necessarily subjective, and all aspects of an applicant's entry will be taken into consideration, including any personal or demographic details that applicants wish to share.

## **E General conditions**

1. The promoter of the Daniel Mervis Prize is St John's College, Oxford, OX1 3JP in conjunction with the University of Oxford.
2. Entry to the competition is free.

## **F Details for entrants**

3. The competition is open to any current University of Oxford student (undergraduate and postgraduate in any course of study).
4. The competition opens on Monday 31 October 2022. The closing date is 17.00 on Friday 13 January 2023. St John's College/University of Oxford reserves the right to extend the duration of the competition if necessary.
5. Texts and images should be submitted electronically by completing the online submission form.
6. Entrants may submit multiple entries, but must complete a separate submission for each entry.
7. Images must be in a digital format (e.g. JPG) at a minimum of 300dpi and between a minimum file size of 2mb and a maximum file size of 30mb. Images can be downsized for submission but winners will be required to provide a high-resolution version of their entry. Images that have been nominated for a prize in any other major photo competition are not eligible.
8. Entrants whose image wins a prize will be required to supply the image in a high-resolution format for print and publicity purposes.
9. Prints or images submitted by disk are not permitted.
10. No nudity or portrayals of illegal or unethical activities are permitted. Submissions that at the sole discretion of the judges are considered inappropriate or unsuitable for publication will be deemed ineligible and removed from the competition.
11. Copyright of images entered for the prize (before and after any manipulation) must be held by the entrant. St John's College/University of Oxford reserves the right to request confirmation of copyright.
12. All entrants must submit an **extended description** of maximum 50 words putting their entry into context in plain English. The description will be taken into consideration by the judges when making their decision.
13. St John's College/University of Oxford reserves the right to use all submitted entries, including those not chosen to win prizes, in promotional materials without further permission from, or

providing payment for use to the entrant. Entries might also be showcased on [www.danielmervis.co.uk](http://www.danielmervis.co.uk). Credit will be given to the entrant if their work is reproduced. The entrant will retain copyright.

14. You represent and warrant to St John's College/University of Oxford that i) you are the sole and exclusive owner of your submission, or that you have all right and authority to grant the rights in the submission to St John's College/University of Oxford described herein; ii) **you have obtained any and all releases necessary from all persons (or their legal guardians) depicted in any visual submission.** [NOTE: Images in public spaces do not require release from background people/subjects.]
15. **Entrants submitting an image must declare if it has been manipulated** (for example, modified in Photoshop) and provide details of when and where the image was taken and the camera or equipment used to take the image.
16. By entering the Daniel Mervis Prize, entrants agree for their work to be publicly displayed in online galleries on the St John's College/University of Oxford websites and social media channels (including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) and in print publications in compliance with their user terms and conditions. The work may also be showcased on [www.danielmervis.co.uk](http://www.danielmervis.co.uk). Further information about user terms can be found on the relevant social media channel's website.
17. By entering the Daniel Mervis Prize, if your entry is deemed eligible, you consent to the use of your name, biographical information, winning entry and any statements attributed to you, or photographs of you taken subsequently, being used for promotional purposes without additional compensation to you. As such, you hereby grant to St John's College/University of Oxford a non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to reproduce works based on your submission without any obligation to compensate you.
18. St John's College/University of Oxford does not accept any liability for lost, damaged, delayed or incomplete entries.
19. Entrants retain copyright of any image submitted but St John's College/University of Oxford requests that they are advised before using the image for public viewing elsewhere to avoid conflicts of interest.
20. Submitted photos will be held temporarily on OneDrive and will therefore be subject to Microsoft terms and conditions.

## **G Judging and prizes**

21. Final cash prizes of £250 for first prize, £150 for second prize and £100 for subsequent awards will be given.
22. Entries will be judged on their interpretation of the annual topic. Entries will be judged alongside the description putting the work into context. Judges appointed by St John's College/University of Oxford will nominate the winning entries and their decision is final.
23. The winners will be chosen after the competition closing date and will be contacted directly by email.
24. The judges are subject to change without notice at the discretion of St John's College/University of Oxford.