



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge Centre for the Integration  
of Science, Technology and Culture

# CCISTC Transcending Ideas Global Essay Competition 2023

## Theme : Past and Future

'Transcending Ideas' is a global essay competition open to students from any country. Cambridge Centre for the Integration of Science, Technology and Culture (CCISTC) provides academic support and works with regional partners to welcome students across the world to demonstrate, develop and contribute their critical thinking in some of the most challenging topics human beings are facing.

### KEY DATES

NOV  
**18**  
2022

REGISTRATION  
OPEN

MAY  
**15-21**  
2023

ONLINE FINALS

APR  
**16**  
2023

SUBMISSION  
DEADLINE

MAY  
**26**  
2023

AWARDS  
ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY  
**08**  
2023

SHORT-LISTED  
PARTICIPANTS  
ANNOUNCEMENT

JUL  
-  
AUG  
2023

AWARD  
CEREMONY  
(CAMBRIDGE/ONLINE)



Total Scholarship of

**£ 30,000+**

### SUBMISSION PROCESS

- ✓ CCISTC works with regional partners to promote the competition among local students and school communities. Students from these countries are welcome to contact the regional partners for more information or registration.
- ✓ Students are also more than welcome to register or submit the essay directly with us via the [Essay Submission Link](#)

### REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Any student (18 years old or below) from any country can apply.
- ✓ The essay should not exceed 2000 words (not counting figures, tables, bibliography, etc.) to address only one of the prompts in each subject.



## CCISTC Transcending Ideas

# GLOBAL ESSAY COMPETITION 2023

## Essay Subjects and Prompts



### ARTS

Prof. Clive Wilkins  
Prof. Nicola Clayton

1. How do artists create new ideas?
2. What does the development of an idea over time reveal about our thinking?



### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Prof. Pietro Lio

1. Will Artificial Intelligence (AI) increase Human Natural Intelligence?
2. Will Artificial Intelligence (AI) modify human consciousness?



### ECONOMICS & FINANCE

Dr. Matthias Dörrzapf  
Prof. Matthew Grimes

1. Can Technology and Big Data manage our future economics and financial risks?
2. How and why has the role of business in society changed across the last 50 years, and how it will change in future?



### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Dr. Catherine MacKenzie

1. Should the study of world history be compulsory for all University students? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What can today's world leaders learn from the 20th century?



### LAW

Dr. Catherine MacKenzie

1. The English legal system looks backwards and relies on precedent for guidance (caselaw). Is this approach useful and if not, what other legal system do you prefer and why?
2. "Kings, Queens, Presidents and other Heads of State may change but it is important to maintain continuity in the legal system". Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer.



### MATHS AND PHYSICS

Dr. Matthias Dörrzapf

1. Why do we need energy and how do we make our energy needs sustainable for the future?
2. Can data from the past really predict our future?



### MEDICINE

Prof. Thomas Krieg  
Prof. Ian Goodfellow  
Dr. Ionel Sandovici

1. Can robots treat patients in the future?
2. Will we ever be able to predict the next pandemic?
3. Are humans still evolving as a species? Please think about the story of human evolution uncovered through genetic studies, and possible evidence that the evolution of our species continues.



### PSYCHOLOGY

Prof. Nicola Clayton  
Prof. Clive Wilkins

1. Discuss "Memory is made with the future in mind".
2. "You don't remember what happened. What you remember becomes what happened." Evaluate it in the light of what is known about the reconstructive nature of memory.



### TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Prof. Jason Robinson

1. Dead battery recycling: a toxic crisis
2. The ethical dilemma of self-driving cars

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