

RSB Photography Competition 2025

Terms and Conditions

Individual entrants are responsible for ensuring that they have read and abided by the terms and conditions before submitting their photographs. No allowances will be made for instances where this is not the case.

Any entry found not to comply with the competition rules is liable to be disqualified.

Eligibility

1. The Organiser of the competition is the Royal Society of Biology, 1 Naoroji Street, London, WC1X 0GB. The competition is open to anyone except those involved in its organisation, employees of the Society and their immediate family, sponsors of the competition, judges and their immediate family.
2. The competition is free to enter and is open to Society members and non-members. Entrants must not be professional photographers. For the purposes of this competition, a professional photographer will be considered to be someone who makes more than half their annual income from photography-related work.
3. Entrants to the Young Photographer of the Year category must be under 18 years of age at the time of the closing date (19 June 2025).
4. Entrants under 13 years of age must seek consent from a parent or guardian in order to take part in the competition. Details for the entrant's parent or guardian will be requested when they submit their photograph(s). The Royal Society of Biology will contact the parent or guardian to confirm details of consent are correct.
5. Prior to submission, entrants must not have offered any of their entries for sale, been paid for any publication of their entries, or won or been runner-up in any other photographic competition with any of their entries.
6. At the time of submission, entrants must declare to the Organiser whether they have entered their images in any other photographic competition. Such submissions will be accepted for entry into the RSB Photography Competition at the judges' discretion.
7. Individuals who have entered the RSB Photography Competition in a previous year can enter again in 2025, however must declare in which year they had previously taken part and whether they had received an award. Previous winners of the RSB Photography Competition cannot enter the competition again.
8. The closing date for submissions is 23:59 BST on 19 June 2025. Once an entry has been submitted it cannot be edited.

Camera and file type specifications

9. Entries must be digital images. Each entrant may submit a maximum of three images to the competition.
10. Images should be submitted as high resolution JPEG or PNG files no larger than 10MB. Please keep copies of all your original and resized images safe. If you are successful in being shortlisted, we will request your original file for further judging and reproduction purposes. If the original file is not received, the image may be disqualified from the competition.
11. There are no restrictions on the type of camera used but it should be noted that part of the judging criteria will be technical excellence and it is therefore recommended that you use the highest possible quality setting on your camera. The original file should be as large as you can achieve with your equipment.

Adjusting your image

12. The faithful representation of what was captured at the time of the shot being taken must be maintained. Digital adjustments are only acceptable if limited to minor cleaning work (removing dust spots), levels, curves, colour, saturation and contrast work. Cropping and light sharpening is allowed, but entrants are warned against risk of losing quality. To ensure your image can be printed at A2 size for the purposes of exhibition, the longest edges of the image should be a minimum of 2500 pixels, with no interpolation (digital upscaling). Images of smaller dimensions may be excluded at the judges' discretion.
13. Focus stacking is permitted so long as the resulting final image is a true representation of the original scene. The individual images must be captured at the same time in the same location. Should your image be successful, the judges will request all of the original images that make up the focus stack.
14. Stacking your image to create a 'stream of movement' or 'time lapse' is permitted so long as the resulting final image contains a true representation of the original scene i.e. the individual images must be captured at the same time in the same location. Should your image be successful, the judges will request all of the original images that make up the stack.
15. Image stitching, where two or more photographs with overlapping features are stitched together to create a bigger final image, is permitted so long as the resulting final image is a true representation of the original scene. The individual images must be captured at the same time in the same location. Should your image be successful, the judges will request all of the original images that make up the stitched image.

16. Adding or removing elements into/from the image is not allowed. Pictures that have been digitally manipulated beyond the terms of this rule will be disqualified. The judges reserve the right to exclude any image they believe may have been excessively treated so as to alter its authenticity.
17. Black and white images are permitted. Dodging, burning and toning of these are allowed. Scans of prints are not permitted.

Subjects and Ethics

18. The competition asks photographers to put the welfare of animals first and to safeguard their environment and that they do not do anything to injure or distress animals or destroy the environment in their attempt to get their photographs. If the Organiser or the judges suspect that a picture was taken using cruel or unethical practices, the entry will be disqualified.
19. The competition also asks photographers to consider their own welfare and that of other individuals and they take care in their attempt to get their photographs.
20. All photographers will be asked to declare that the images they are submitting comply with the competition rules and that the picture information they provide is complete, true and accurate.
21. Photographers are requested to include details of the species in their photographs and the precise location(s) of where their photographs were taken when submitting their entry.

Notification

22. Shortlisted entrants will be notified in October 2025. The full details of the winner, and any runner-up or highly commended entries will be announced in October 2025.
23. If the Organiser is unable to contact winners after reasonable attempts have been made, the Organiser reserves the right to offer the prize to a runner-up.
24. Those shortlisted for the Young Photographer category will need to provide proof of age and will also need to provide a signed statement from a parent or guardian that the entrant's submission is solely the work of the entrant.

Judging

25. Judges appointed by the Organiser will choose the winners. The Organiser's decision on all matters relating to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entered into concerning the competition's judging and organisation.
26. Should the quality of entries fall below the standard required, the Organiser reserves the right not to award prizes. Such decisions shall be unchallengeable.

Copyright and Reproduction

27. The copyright of the entire image must belong to the entrant.
28. Entrants will retain copyright of the photographs that they submit. By entering the competition entrants grant the Organisers a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, and publish images entered into the competition for the purposes of: a) Publicising and promoting the competition, b) The Organisers' activities, including within their publications, website and social media channels. Contact the Organisers at engagement@rsb.org.uk if you have any questions about the use of images.
29. Entrants whose photographs are shortlisted grant the Society the right to publish and exhibit their photographs at awards event(s) and to use the image(s) for marketing purposes. They also agree to take part in post-competition publicity. No fees will be payable for any of the above uses. While we make every effort to credit photographers, including in printed reproductions of their work, we cannot guarantee this.
30. Media will be allowed to publish winning and shortlisted images free of charge for the purpose of promoting the photography competition without express permission from the photographer. The Organisers will try to ensure all images used by the media are credited to the photographer.
31. Third parties will not be granted permission to use images for other purposes without express permission from the photographer.

Disclaimer

32. The Organisers reserve the right to cancel this competition or alter the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control. Any breach of these terms by an entrant will void their entry. The Organisers reserve the right to request the return of a prize if, at a later date, the entrant has been discovered to be in breach of these terms.