

RUTTKAY ESSAY COMPETITION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Topic: The competition is open to argumentative essays on any topic, between 3,000 and 5,000 words (theses are not accepted). We invite **creative, original, scholarly** (properly referenced), and **thought-provoking** essays **written by students**.

Authentication: **The use of generative AI to enhance any aspect or stage of the work submitted needs to be acknowledged.** Without due acknowledgement, the use of generative AI may be classed as plagiarism, and will result in exclusion from the competition (see also the Institute’s BA Thesis Guidelines or the University of Cambridge’s guidelines: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/exam-administration/cambridge-exams-officers-guide/phase-3-coursework-and-moderation/generative-ai-in-coursework/>).

Identification: The application is identified by a code/pseudonym instead of the applicant’s name to promote objectivity in the evaluation. Please **make sure to include only the author’s code/pseudonym in the header, title page and file name.**

Format: 1.5-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, in either doc, docx, or pdf.

Submission: Contestants should submit their work as email attachment to the Institute’s secretary via email. Make sure to type “Ruttkay Essay Competition” in the subject of the email, and include the author’s name, programme (BA/MA) and year in the body text. Nowhere else should author’s names appear.

Language: Standard English is expected. The spelling can be either British or American, but consistently only one form, without contractions.

Reference: MLA or Chicago Manual of Style, but consistently only one. Contestants are advised to consult the detailed style requirements under the Thesis Guidelines section of the Institute’s website: <https://tinyurl.com/44s3cpwd>.

Deadline: Submission deadline is usually in early autumn, but is subject to minor change – please check the actual date in the Call for Papers.

Competition process: To ensure the objectivity of the process, each essay will be read by at least two faculty members, who will then write a short critique indicating whether they consider it **good, better** or **excellent** (the latter being a recommendation for the Ruttkay Essay Prize). If at least one of the judges considers an essay to be excellent, it will be shortlisted as a finalist. After the selection process, the readers/jurors will jointly select

the best essay (or, in exceptional and justified cases, the two best essays) from the finalists.

Readers' comments: after the public announcement of the results, the judges' comments (recommendations for further development into thesis and/or a submission to the National Scientific Students' Associations Conference, etc.) will be sent to the authors. In all cases, the jury will help the author get in touch with the most competent consultant, in order to give maximum attention to the author's further work. The winner's name will be published on the Institute's website alongside the winners of previous years, and their entry will be available in full among the other winning texts.

Announcement of results, award ceremony: The award ceremony will normally take place either at an Institute Eve (autumn or spring), or the Christmas Party. Contestants will be contacted at the email address they made their submission.

Awards: the Ruttkay Prize is a valuable gift each year: the award from the Institute of English and American Studies will arrive to the winner's bank account as a grant. The daughters of Professor Kálmán Ruttkay, Dr Zsófia and Eszter Ruttkay have been offering valuable book vouchers to contestants in acknowledgement of the authors' effort. In addition, the best paper and often the Second Best Papers will be published on the Institute website at <https://btk.ppke.hu/anglisztika-ruttkay-esszepyazat>.

For further information, please contact Gabriella Reuss, by Teams message or by email (reuss.gabriella@btk.ppke.hu).