

# Royal College of Emergency Medicine Undergraduate Essay Prizes 2025

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) is pleased to announce two prize categories:

1. The RCEM Undergraduate **Research** Essay Prize
2. The RCEM Undergraduate **Quality Improvement** Essay Prize

## Prizes

Each category winner will receive a prize of £500, a one-year RCEM membership, and coverage of reasonable travel, accommodation, and registration costs for the next scientific conference. Additionally, winners from both categories will be invited to present their work at this event.

## Eligibility

Submissions are welcomed from undergraduate students, both medical and non-medical, enrolled at recognised teaching institutions in the UK and Ireland. RCEM membership is not a requirement for participation.

## Instructions for authors

Submissions should describe original research or quality improvement initiatives with direct relevance to emergency medicine. Essays must represent unpublished work, i.e., not published in a peer-reviewed journal indexed in MEDLINE. Submissions should be in English and must not exceed 1500 words, excluding title, headings, and references. A maximum of two tables or figures may be included. Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT by OpenAI) are not permitted for essay composition.

For **Research** essays, applicants may choose to use traditional scientific paper headings (Background, Methods, Results, Discussion), though this is not mandatory.

For **Quality Improvement** essays, applicants are encouraged to review and follow the recommended headings outlined in the RCEM Quality Improvement Guide: [click here](#) Applicants may choose to use QI headings (Background, Problem statement, Methods (which can include stakeholder analysis, measurement, strategy e.g., plan-do-study-act or lean six sigma, etc.) Results, Lessons and limitations, Conclusion), though this is not mandatory.

The complete essay submission must be anonymised, with no references to institutions or other identifiers that could reveal the author's identity or affiliation. Only one applicant is allowed per submission, and individuals may not enter both categories. The applicant must have played a substantial role in the research or quality improvement project described and must have personally authored the essay.

The first page of the (anonymised) essay submission must contain:

1. The essay title
2. A summary of your personal involvement in the work
3. Details of the contribution of others, including any supervision
4. Prior dissemination of this work (state "none" if not applicable)
5. Word count, excluding title, headings, and references (maximum - 1500)
6. Number of tables/figures (maximum - two in total)

## Scoring

Essays will be evaluated by a panel of experts selected by the RCEM Research Committee. The outcome will be communicated to the email address provided with your submission.

## Submission instructions

Submissions (in Word file format) should be sent electronically to <policy@rcem.ac.uk> no later than **1700 on Friday 14 February 2025**. The email subject line must be 'RCEM Undergraduate Essay'.

You must include the following information in your email:

1. First name(s)
2. Surname
3. Age (in years) at submission
4. Email address
5. Telephone number
6. Name of your UK or Irish academic institution
7. Exact title of your essay (must match the title on the front page)
8. Indication of whether this is a **Research** or **QI** submission

## Further information

Dr. Ed Barnard, Emergency Medicine Consultant, Cambridge  
<edward.barnard@nhs.net> **Research** Essay Prize

Dr Aileen McCabe, Emergency Medicine Consultant, Dublin  
<aileen.mccabe@tuh.ie> **Quality Improvement** Essay Prize

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