

CALL FOR ENTRIES · ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–2027

Essay & Art Competition

2026–2027

SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING · PEKING UNIVERSITY

THIS YEAR'S THEME

“What can young people in Britain and China do together to make the global environment better?”

2

AGE CATEGORIES
Under 16 / 16+

2,000

WORDS MAX
for essay entries

14 May

DEADLINE
2027

June

AWARDS EVENT
2027, London

PRIZES · SPONSORED BY PEKING UNIVERSITY

£200 · £100 · £50

awarded in each age category

EVERY ENTRANT RECEIVES

Free 1-year SACU
membership

Enter with

- An essay (max 2,000 words)
- Or an artistic entry – photography, visual media, choreographed dance and more, with a short description (max 1,000 words)
- Or a video (max 5 minutes)

Judged by

Dr Frances Wood (chair) – author on China, former Head of the Chinese Collections at the British Library, and SACU Vice President – with Prof Sun Hua of Peking University at the London awards event.

FULL DETAILS, THEMES & HOW TO ENTER OVERLEAF

Free schools talk available: *“China in the World”*

Contact Mrs Fang Wang · EssayCompetition@sacu.org.uk

Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU)
Registered Charity No. 294651 · www.sacu.org.uk

I. About the Competition

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) was founded in 1965 by Dr Joseph Needham to build friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and the UK. Launched for SACU's 50th anniversary in 2015, the SACU/Peking University Essay & Art Competition has run every year since.

2025 marked SACU's 60th anniversary, when 'Environment' was set as a priority for the decade ahead — so the competition continues to invite young people to explore that theme. Few issues need international collaboration more urgently: the environment shapes the future of the only planet we share.

II. Explore the Theme

“What can young people in Britain and China do together to make the global environment better?”

Entrants are invited to explore environmental development in China and/or the UK, and what each country can learn from the other — for example:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) A focused study of one city, country, or period in history | (d) A reflection on historical figures who advanced UK-China understanding |
| (b) Science, technology or the digital era — climate change, urbanisation, digitisation, socio-economic challenges, extractive industries, and more | (e) New ideas or solutions to environmental challenges |
| (c) A personal account of environmental experience in a global context | (f) Research drawn from SACU's online archive: archive.sacu.org |

Any of the above may be expressed as an essay or as a work of art.

III. Prizes & Judging

Three prizes per age category (16+, and under 16), sponsored by Peking University: £200 / £100 / £50.

The judging panel is chaired by Dr Frances Wood — renowned China author, former Head of the Chinese Collections at the British Library, and SACU Vice President.

Shortlisted entrants are invited to an Awards Event in London, June 2027, with Dr Frances Wood and Professor Sun Hua of Peking University, a leading expert on the foreign friends of China who helped build friendship between the Chinese and Western peoples.

V. Membership & IP

Schools should submit email addresses for all entrants, not only shortlisted ones — every entrant receives a free one-year SACU student membership as thanks for taking part.

SACU is a UK registered charity. All entries and accompanying material become the property of SACU and may be used to promote UK-China friendship.

IV. How to Enter

- Essay: maximum 2,000 words
- Art: photography, visual media, choreographed dance etc., with a description of max 1,000 words
- Video: maximum 5 minutes
- Judged in two categories: 16 and over, and under 16
- Each school selects up to 3 entries per category and forwards brief comments via their SACU member link
- **Deadline: 14 May 2027**

VI. Free Schools Talk

“China in the World” — SACU's Speakers Bureau offers UK schools talks on China, its people and culture. Our speakers are established writers and China specialists with many years living and working in the Chinese-speaking world, bringing students a thoughtful, informed perspective on UK-China relations.

CONTACT FOR THE COMPETITION & SCHOOLS TALKS

Mrs Fang Wang, SACU Coordinator

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