

The Anthony Cross Essay Prize in Slavonic Studies

Fitzwilliam College is pleased to announce the annual competition for the Anthony Cross Essay Prize in Slavonic Studies. It is open to students in Year 12 or the Lower 6th. The prize is intended to encourage students with an interest in history, languages or literature to consider undertaking university studies in Polish, Russian, or Ukrainian Studies, either as part of a degree in Modern Languages or as part of the new joint degree in History and Modern Languages. It is not limited to students already studying Eastern European history or the Polish, Russian or Ukrainian language: any student with an interest in the topic is welcome to submit an essay to the competition.

The prize is offered in celebration of the scholarship of Anthony Cross, who was a fellow of Fitzwilliam College and Professor of Slavonic Studies in the Department of Modern Languages from 1985-2004. Professor Cross played a leading role in developing the field of Slavonic Studies both at Cambridge and in the United Kingdom. He is internationally known for his work on eighteenth-century Russia and Anglo-Russian cultural relations and has published over 400 articles and 25 books.

QUESTIONS

1. Select any single work of Polish, Russian or Ukrainian literature or visual art (a film, a painting, an architectural drawing, or a poster) and discuss the ways in which it addresses the issue of displacement, the situation in which people are forced to leave the place that they call home or where they normally live.
2. 'The past always seems to be better than the present.' Discuss with respect to one work of either Polish, Ukrainian or Russian literature or visual art (a film, a painting, an architectural drawing, or a poster).
3. 'To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.' (Nelson Mandela) Discuss with respect to one work of either Polish, Ukrainian or Russian literature or visual art (a film, a painting, an architectural drawing, or a poster).
4. 'Happiness is a choice.' Discuss with respect to one work of either Polish, Ukrainian or Russian literature or visual art (a film, a painting, an architectural drawing, or a poster).
5. 'Destruction of identity is an outcome of war.' Discuss with reference to past or present events associated with Poland, Russia or Ukraine (reference at least three published articles or texts that are accredited sources), or answer with respect to a work of either Polish, Ukrainian or Russian literature or visual art (a film, a painting, an architectural drawing, or a poster).

Questions are deliberately open-ended to allow you to select and develop your own approach to the topic.

COMPETITION RULES

This essay competition is for students in their penultimate year of education - Year 12 (Eng + Wales), S5 (Scotland), Y13 (NI). It is open to students in any country, but submissions must be written in English.

Applicants will be required to enter their details online using the form linked on the essay competitions webpage, and to upload one PDF copy of their essay, formatted using the template provided, electronically **or** post a hard copy of the formatted essay to:

Schools Liaison Officer
Fitzwilliam College
Cambridge
CB3 0DG

by **6pm on Friday 28th of February 2025**. If the PDF file is too large to submit to the online form, please email your submission to essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk. Further submission information can be found on the essay competition website: <https://www.fitz.cam.ac.uk/event/fitzwilliam-college-competitions>

Your submission must be entirely your own work. When submitting your essay, you will need to provide contact information for one of your teachers and if necessary, we may contact them to verify that your submission is entirely your own work. Students are only permitted to enter one competition and may only submit one entry to their chosen competition. There is a strict limit of five submissions per school for each essay competition. If more than five students from the same school enter the same competition, a teacher from that school will be contacted and asked to select the five entries; failure to do so will result in all submissions from the school to that competition being disqualified.

Essays should be between 2000 and 2500 words long and contain a list of works consulted and cited at the end. This bibliography is excluded from the word limit, but any footnotes are included. Please provide a word count at the end of the essay. If you include any diagrams or tables in the essay, they each count as 100 words. Guidance on referencing is available on the website. Applicants must ensure that pages are numbered and that their full name is on each page.

Alongside your essay you must provide a completed research log. Your research log will detail how you approached and thought about the question and will give the markers an understanding of why you chose to answer the question in the way that you did.

Your essay and research log should be submitted together using the template linked on our website. Any submissions not using the template provided will not be counted in the competition.

Prizes:

The prize fund (per competition) is £300 with a first prize of £200 and highly commended applicants being awarded a £25 book voucher. A prizegiving ceremony will be held in April 2025

Certificates of commendation may be awarded to runners-up who have impressed the judges. The College reserves the right not to award prizes if there is no entry of sufficient merit.

For more information about the competition

Please contact: essaycompetitions@fitz.cam.ac.uk

Slavonic studies at Fitzwilliam College:

Fitzwilliam is eager to continue the distinguished tradition of Slavonic studies established by Professor Cross. We welcome applications from students who wish to study Slavonic languages, either in combination with another language offered in Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics or as part of the new joint course in History and Modern Languages.

Many of our MMLL students choose to spend their year abroad in Eastern Europe, Eurasia, or in countries where a Slavonic language is spoken as a primary or secondary language. Some take language courses in universities, whilst others secure internships or teaching placements. In previous years Fitzwilliam students have travelled to Belarus, Kyrgyzia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. They have worked as English teachers, museum guides, translators and parliamentary interns. Students receive help with their year abroad costs from the Fitzwilliam MML Fund, which is supported by generous gifts from our alumni. Each MML student is also eligible to apply for college travel awards to support language study in the vacations.

For further information about the competition or studying Slavonic languages at Fitzwilliam, please contact: Dr. Olenka Z Pevny, Associate Professor in Slavonic and Ukrainian Studies – ozp20@cam.ac.uk