

The Ruth Davies Award Guidelines

1) Eligibility

We invite entries from all undergraduate and master's courses (including integrated master's courses) that cover substantial OR and related topics. For courses where eligibility is unclear, we recommend seeking confirmation from the Society before considering submission.

This award is for academic dissertations that do not involve an external client and hence are not eligible for the May Hicks Award.

The projects being submitted for consideration must have been conducted as part of a degree at a UK University.

2) Value

The prizes for the competition will be: £500 for the 1st prize and £100 for each of the two runners up.

3) Entry

Entries should be made by the Course Director or a faculty member acting on his/her behalf (and not by the students directly). One entry per 15 students on the course, or part thereof, is allowed.

Projects entered should be OR projects that achieved a classification of at least a distinction or First Class, where applicable, and which show significant contributions to its field (such as, practical application, innovation and originality) and the ability to apply theory in practical scenarios.

The initial entry should consist of the following:

- A summary (of not more than two pages) of the project highlighting objectives, methodology, novelty and potential impact,
- An endorsement by an independent academic (e.g., the external examiners) of the project's quality.

4) Judging criteria

Entries will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Technical Merit
Projects should demonstrate a strong understanding of OR principles, employing appropriate methodologies and techniques.
- Relevance

Projects should address meaningful problems with clear connections to OR concepts, showcasing their applicability in academic, industrial or societal concepts.

- **Innovation**

The work should identify and address – at least partially with preliminary results – an unsolved mathematical, technical, or computational problem, providing novel insights or approaches.

- **Potential impact**

The contribution of the project should be evident at technical, practical or theoretical levels. Projects should demonstrate the value of OR in solving real-world problems, highlighting their potential influence.

- **Style**

Submissions must be well-structured and clearly written, employing precise and appropriate mathematical language. The writing should be rigorous and coherent.

5) Selection

The university will be responsible for selecting the most suitable candidates from their applicants. The OR Society is fully committed to promoting diversity and the award is available to any individual to recognise their work, irrespective of their background or circumstances.

The judging panel will shortlist the entries. Project reports may be requested for shortlisted entries, so a final decision can be reached on the winners. The panel may, at their discretion, invite students to present their work.

The OR Society may also publicise the winning entries through its publications and the website.

Entries for any year should be submitted electronically to sophie.rouse@theorsociety.com to arrive no later than 30 April.