



INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL ETHICS

F1 and F2 Doctor Essay Competition - Guidelines for Applicants

1. The prize is open to all F1 and F2 doctors in the UK.
2. The essay should be about an ethical issue raised by an experience you have had as an F1 or F2 doctor and should be in the form of reflective practice. The judges are looking for well-presented essays that focus on the writer's personal experience of the ethical issues raised by a particular case or situation and analysed in relation to relevant ethical, professional and legal considerations.
3. If you have completed your F2 in the preceding year, you may still submit but the ethical issue outlined in your essay must have taken place during your F1 or F2 year.
4. Care should be taken to ensure complete patient confidentiality throughout your work.
5. Word count limit is 1500, excluding references and title. Essays which exceed this by >5% will be penalised and possibly excluded. Times New Roman 12 point font is recommended, with no images or borders. Please include the word count at the end of your essay.
6. References should be detailed at the end of the essay; maximum of 10 recommended. **Please note:** References to lengthy documents should direct the marker to the specific section/page number of the document that supports the point being made.
7. All submissions will be anonymised prior to marking.
8. We are unable to accept handwritten applications.
9. Please note that the marking criteria is available for applicants to view via the IME website and can be used as guidance as to the format and content of essays.
10. Winning titles will be published on the IME website (just essay titles, not the essay).
11. Please submit your application form and essay by emailing it to contact@ime-uk.org, copying in claudiaf@ime-uk.org.
12. You will receive an email acknowledgement once we have received your submission. **Please note:** If you do not receive an acknowledgement within

one week of submission, please email us at contact@ime-uk.org so we can check that we have received it.

13. The closing date for submissions is **23:59 Thursday 4th February 2027**. We will be unable to consider essays received after this date.
14. The winners will be notified by email by **Friday 30th April 2027** and will receive the prize money in the form of a bank transfer and a certificate shortly afterwards.
15. Brief feedback will be provided.
16. Winning entrants will also be given a year's complimentary membership for the IME.
17. If you have any questions, please email us at contact@ime-uk.org and we will respond asap.
18. The judges' decision is final.