

2026 ICE CityZen Award terms and conditions

Award eligibility

The competition is open to students currently undertaking:

- A Levels
- Scottish Highers
- Scottish Advanced Highers
- International Baccalaureate
- Welsh Baccalaureate
- BTEC Level 3 Diplomas or Extended Diplomas or the SQA equivalents
- T Levels
- A Design Engineer Construct! Programme

Or other qualifications which could lead directly to further study on an HNC/HND/degree or an apprenticeship in civil engineering.

Competing teams must be based in the UK or Channel Islands. ICE is not responsible for checking the eligibility of teams at any stage of the competition.

Each competing team must be registered before the deadline of 22.00 on 14 December 2026 by a school representative or responsible adult. A link to the registration form will be emailed to all school representatives and responsible adults who have registered their interest at the start of the autumn term. Registration forms must be completed in full including the name, date of birth and school year of all the participating students. This data will be used to measure the outcomes in UCAS applications from participants only and will be processed safely and securely in line with ICE's data privacy policy, as described below.

All schools registering will be sent a resource pack at the start of autumn term via email containing information about the competition and civil engineering.

Competing teams will complete the four-part ICE CityZen game and submit a video in MP4 format of between 2-4 minutes in length and not exceeding 50MB file-size by the deadline of 22.00 on 18 December 2026. Entries must be submitted as one file. Entries submitted after the closing date may not be eligible. There are no criteria which specify the type or style of video, but it must not contain unlicensed or copyrighted material. Students are not required to be visible in the footage. Competition entry videos containing swearing or any content deemed unsuitable for public viewing will be disqualified. ICE is not responsible for any entries that are not received or arrive as corrupted files. ICE are also not responsible for informing any School/Teacher/ Responsible Adult in the case of non-delivered or corrupted files.

Teams are welcome to complete the game only to receive their certificate of achievement, however, without a Project Pitch video submission they will not be eligible for the Gold, Silver, Bronze Award or the two special prize categories advertised. Students must have completed both the CityZen Award game and their Project Pitch video in the 2026 competition period, to be eligible for the advertised prizes.

It is the responsibility of the School/Teacher/Responsible Adult registering teams and submitting entries to ensure that each team numbers between one and four students, and not more than four in any circumstance. Any team of over four students will be considered ineligible for the award prizes.

All project pitch submissions which meet the eligibility criteria will be judged by a panel of judges. The decisions of the judges will be final. Schools are required to ensure that for awards, ICE is supplied with completed parental permission forms for the use of imagery in promotion and publicity of winning entries.

Winning schools will be invited to participate in publicity for prize-winners following the decision of the competition judges. Publicity will include, but not be limited to, a national press release and photocall at the school arranged on a mutually agreed date and time. If consent is not given from one or more prize winners, only the school's name and age of the student(s) for whom consent isn't given will be published.

Use of AI

To keep the competition fair and to make sure the judges can understand your ideas and creativity, we have rules about how you can use Artificial Intelligence (AI) when making your video.

1. What you can use AI for

You are allowed to use AI as a support tool while developing your project. For example:

- Brainstorming or generating ideas
- Research support (summaries, explanations, definitions - as long as you rewrite them)
- Drafting early script ideas (as long as you edit and rewrite them yourself)
- Planning tools (storyboards, structure, shot lists)
- Minor video/audio editing help (e.g., noise reduction, colour correction, subtitles)

2. What you cannot use AI for

Your video must be created by you, not AI. Therefore:

- No AI-generated video footage or fully synthetic scenes
- No AI-generated avatars, narrators, or deepfakes
- No AI-generated voiceovers used as the main narration
- No scripts written entirely by AI without your own editing
- No AI tools that create the core creative content for you
- The main storytelling, visuals and audio must be your own work

3. Your AI Transparency Statement

At the end of your video (in your credits) you must include a short statement (1-2 sentences) explaining whether you used AI and, if so, how. See the Project Pitch Guide for examples.

There is no penalty for using AI appropriately, but entries that hide or misrepresent their use of AI, or are deemed to not be following our rules on AI, use may be disqualified.

The CityZen team will review **finalist** videos to ensure rules have been followed. This may include:

4. How we will check for AI content

- A visual check for signs of AI-generated content
- Using AI-detection tools if something looks unclear
- Asking for original footage or audio files if needed

Prizes

All students who complete all four rounds of the CityZen game (irrespective of their score) will receive a certificate of achievement.

The team with the best entry (based on the project pitch submission) will be awarded the ICE CityZen Gold Award, two runners up will also be selected, winning the ICE CityZen Silver and Bronze Awards.

The Gold Award winners will receive:

£1,000 split equally between each student
£1,000 to the school for STEM resources
Lunch at ICE's prestigious headquarters in Westminster

The Silver Award winners will receive:

£500 split equally between each student
£500 to the school for STEM resources
Lunch at ICE's prestigious headquarters in Westminster

The Bronze Award winners will receive:

£250 split equally between each student
£250 to the school for STEM resources
Lunch at ICE's prestigious headquarters in Westminster

Top CityZen game scoring teams will receive:

Highest scoring team:
£50 Waterstones gift card per student

Second highest scoring team:
£40 Waterstones gift card per student

Third highest scoring team:
£30 Waterstones gift card per student

The following special prizes - subject to ICE's discretion - will also be awarded by the CityZen final judging panel:

For the JBA Trust Special Award for Nature and People Positive Innovation:

Awarded for the most creative and practical way to support nature and the environment.

- £500 – split equally between students and school.
- Lunch at ICE's prestigious headquarters in Westminster

For the Loud Speaker Prize for Communication Skills:

Awarded for the pitch demonstrating the most excellent communication skills.

- Student prizes - to be confirmed for 2026.
- Lunch at ICE's prestigious headquarters in Westminster

No alternative prizes can be offered and ICE will verify the identity and eligibility of all prize-winners. Additional prizes may be offered at ICE's discretion. ICE reserves the right to change the advertised prizes if necessary.

Reasonable expenses will be paid for winning teams and a teacher to attend ICE Headquarters in London. Standard class rail fares and economy class air travel will be covered, for the most economical route and tickets. If necessary, hotel accommodation can be provided, this will be booked by ICE staff.

Winners will be notified by 2 April 2027.

Publicity

Winning schools will be asked to consent to publicity for prize-winners following the decision of the competition judges. Publicity will include, but not be limited to, a national press release and photocall at the school arranged on a mutually agreed date and time. If consent is not given from one or more prize-winners, only the school's name and age of the student(s) for whom consent isn't given will be published.

ICE reserves the right to use in full or part, all videos submitted to the competition for publicity and promotional usage.

Institution of Civil Engineers Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy sets out how the Institution of Civil Engineers ("ICE", "we", "our", "us",) collects and uses the Personal Data of students, teachers and mentors ("you", "your") [who are registered to take part in or support the ICE CityZen Award ("Competition")].

Data Controller

ICE is the data controller and responsible for your personal data. We have appointed a data protection officer ("DPO") who is responsible for overseeing questions in relation to this privacy policy. If you have any questions about this privacy policy, including any requests to exercise your legal rights, please contact the DPO using the details set out below:

Institution of Civil Engineers
One Great George Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3AA
Telephone 0207 665 2268
Email: dataprotection@ice.org.uk

Personal data

Personal data means any information about an individual from which that person can be identified. It does not include data where the identity has been removed (anonymous data).

We will collect, use, store and share, the following items of personal data about you, [if you/your school registers you to take part in the Competition:].

Name.
Date of birth (students)
Email address (teachers and mentors only)
The year you entered the Competition and your school-year at the time of participation (students)

How is your personal data collected? (Students)

[If you decide to take part in the Competition then, subject to the following paragraph, your school may register you as a participant via our online platform (the ICE CityZen game website - managed by Make Real Ltd), in which case your personal data will be shared with us by your school, via our platform provider, who receives and processes your personal data on our behalf.

Your School is also a controller of any Personal Data it shares with us. We have an agreement with your school, which prohibits it from sharing your personal data with us unless your school has made this privacy policy available to you in advance and you have indicated to your school by email, that you accept the terms of this privacy policy.

Additionally participants may voluntarily choose to share personal data in their video competition submission - e.g. if they appear or speak on camera or audio track. This will be shared publicly as per the rights of ICE as the competition promoter and ICE does not accept any responsibility for negative consequences resulting from the use of the competition videos.

If you fail to provide your data

Taking part in the Competition and, if relevant, receiving an award, are conditional on us having been provided with your personal data as referred to above.

If you have not indicated to your school, that you accept the terms of this privacy policy, then you will not be able to take part in the Competition.

Purposes for which we use your personal data

We will use your personal data, where it is necessary for our legitimate interests and your interests and fundamental rights do not override those interests. The table below sets out how we use your personal data and our legitimate interest in doing so.

Personal data	How we use it	Legitimate interest
Your name and the name and address of your school.	To register you as a participant in the Competition and to enable you to take part in the Competition [and if relevant to award any prize to you].	We regard this as necessary for our legitimate interests in order to identify and distinguish between participants.
Your name, date of birth, the name and address of your school and your school-year at the time of your participation in the Competition.	To obtain reports from UCAS to assess whether participating in the Competition encourages participants to apply for civil engineering courses in the future.	We regard this as necessary for our legitimate interest in order to assess the extent to which the Competition promotes an interest in civil engineering.

(Teachers and mentors) we will use your personal data to contact you about the competition and inform you of other ICE activities of interest. You are free to opt out of these communications at any time.

Change of purpose

We will only use your personal data for the purposes for which we collected it, unless we reasonably consider that we need to use it for another reason and that reason is compatible with the original purpose. If you wish to get an explanation as to how the processing for the new purpose is compatible with the original purpose, please contact us.

Please note that we may process your personal data without your knowledge or consent where this is required or permitted by law.

Sharing your personal data

(Students) we will share your personal data with UCAS, via Outreach Evaluator, which is a data analysis service run by UCAS that tracks named individuals through the UCAS application process. Outreach Evaluator will use the personal data to provide to us, anonymised aggregated reports showing how many Competition participants applied for civil engineering courses. This in turn enables us to analyse the impact of the Competition.

(All) your personal data is also shared with, and is otherwise available to, our platform provider referred to further above. Our platform provider’s role is strictly functional, and the processing activities which it carries out on our behalf, are limited to collecting your personal data on our behalf via our online platform, and that which is necessary to provide the platform services to us.

Both Outreach Evaluator and our platform provider are data processors of ICE, and their respective processing activities are governed by data processing terms between us and them respectively.

We require our data processors to respect the security of your personal data and to treat it in accordance with the law. We do not allow our processors to use your personal data for their own purposes and only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our instructions.

Your data will not be shared with any other third parties without your permission, except to the extent required, or permitted, by law.

International transfers

Our platform provider may use sub processors outside of the UK and as such, it may transfer your personal data outside the UK. However, we only permit the use of sub processor located in, and transfers of personal data to locations in, the EEA. This is because the EEA is deemed to provide an adequate level of protection for personal data, similar to that afforded under UK law.

Data retention

We will retain your personal data for a period of 3 consecutive years of UCAS application cycles, after which it will be securely deleted. This does not apply to the anonymised aggregated reports which we receive from Outreach Evaluator, which we may retain indefinitely. Such reports do not contain data which identifies you.

We may retain your personal data for a longer period if required by law, or in the event of a complaint or if we reasonably believe there is a prospect of litigation with your and/or involving your personal data.

If you successfully exercise your right to ask us to delete or remove your personal data:

Prior to the end of the Competition, then you may not be permitted to complete in the Competition;
Prior to any awards being handed out, then you may not be able to receive an award (if relevant);
Prior to us sharing your personal data with Outreach Evaluator (see below), or prior to the end of the retention period referred to above, then it could reduce our ability to analyse the impact of the Competition.

Your rights in relation to your data

You have the right to:

- Request access to your personal data. If you wish to request copies of your personal data please contact the Data Protection Officer at the address above.
- Request us to have your data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- Request us to delete or remove your personal data if there is no reason for us to continue to process it. You also have the right to ask us to delete or remove your personal data where you have successfully exercised your right to object to processing (see below), where we may have processed your personal data unlawfully or where we are required to erase your personal data to comply with local law. Note, however, that we may not always be able to comply with your request of erasure for specific legal reasons which will be notified to you, if applicable, at the time of your request.
- Object to the processing of your personal data where we are relying on a legitimate interest and there is something about your particular situation which makes you want to object to processing on this ground as you feel it impacts on your fundamental rights and freedoms. In some cases, we may demonstrate that we have compelling legitimate grounds to process your personal data which override your rights and freedoms.
- Request the restriction of the processing of your personal data. You can ask us to suspend the processing of your personal data: (a) if you want us to establish the data's accuracy; (b) where our use of the personal data is unlawful but you do not want us to erase it; (c) where you need us to hold the personal data even if we no longer require it as you need it to establish, exercise or defend legal claims; (d) if you have objected to our use of your data but we need to verify whether we have overriding legitimate grounds to use it.
- Lodge a complaint about the data controller with the ICO.

Further details about GDPR and your rights under GDPR can be found at the ICO's website at <https://ico.org.uk>