



Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE

‘Summer Challenge 2022’ Competition for New and Continuing Undergraduate Students in the Department of Humanities

In recent years events have challenged the way we live, from the climate crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic to Brexit and the war in Ukraine. Times of change force us to think about our lives both individually and collectively: Who do we want to be? What kind of future do we want, and how should we get there? Answers to those questions have shaped our history and will shape our future too. Visions of the future can be utopian or dystopian. They can be political, artistic, cultural or critical. They represent hope, optimism and idealism, though played out in reality they are always complicated.

In our summer competition we are inviting new and continuing Humanities students to reflect on such issues from the vantage point of their own discipline. To participate, please submit an entry that explores the following subject:

Visions of the Future

Your contribution should be no longer than 1,500 words. Depending on your programme, your contribution could, for instance, be

- an essay focusing on a historical event or set of circumstances;
- a discussion of a particular literary text or character;
- an examination of the language of idealism and the way we talk about futures;
- a reflection on language and communication as they may evolve in the future;
- a piece of creative writing;
- an exploration of networks of music/culture, or connections between composers, in relation to the idea of futurity.

We are not prescriptive and encourage students to develop their own distinct approach to this task: you may respond to the theme in whatever way you consider interesting. The submission should be referenced in line with the conventions of your degree programme. The references and bibliography do not count towards the word limit.

A multidisciplinary team featuring academic staff from across the department will select the winning entries. We expect to make awards across different degree programmes and year groups in the Humanities. The winning entries will be announced at the start of the semester. Each winner will receive a certificate, public recognition and an Amazon voucher of £50.

Please submit your contribution by 9 September 2022 by sending a message to Tony Williams, Director of Education in the Department of Humanities (tony.williams@northumbria.ac.uk). If you have any questions about the competition, please feel free to get in touch with Tony.