The Australasian Society for Classical Studies

Douglas Kelly Australian Essay Competition

2026

GUIDELINES AND RULES

ASCS is an inclusive organisation. It encourages entries from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students who are living with disabilities, students of diverse gender and sexuality, mature-age students, and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

1. Candidates must be undergraduate students enrolled at an Australian tertiary institution.
2. There is a limit of one entry per candidate.
3. The subject of the essay may reflect any aspect of Classical Studies broadly defined: the languages, literatures, thought, histories, religions, archaeology and receptions of the ancient world. This very much includes essays on Egyptian and Near Eastern topics.
4. The essay should be an independent piece of work but should have begun its existence as an essay, tutorial or seminar paper for one of the units in which the candidate is or was enrolled. The research and writing of the essay must have been completed entirely by the student.
5. The length of the essay should be between 2000 and 3000 words, inclusive of references (whether in-text or footnotes).
6. **Submitting your work:** Students **must** submit their work to their university representative (A list of university representatives can be found here). The submission should consist of two files: the essay (typed and double-spaced) and a coversheet. These should be saved as PDF files and sent as e-mail attachments. For extremely large files, university representatives can discuss with the coordinator how best to transmit these files.

a **Students should ensure that their work has been submitted to their university representative by 5:00 PM (local time) on December 4, 2026**, at which time the university representative will conduct final checking. Essays submitted individually to the competition coordinator will not be considered. When e-mailing their university representative, students should include their name and essay title in the body of their e-mail (as well as on the coversheet). It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their submissions comply with competition policies.

b **The university representatives must complete checks and send entries to the competition coordinator by 5:00 PM (AEDT) on December 9, 2026. No entries will be accepted after this date.**

c Each entry must be rendered anonymous by the removal of any reference to the candidate's name on the essay itself, and any indication of the candidate's institution in the body of the text or in the footnotes (e.g., by reference to specific university course books cited). Failure to render the entry anonymous will lead to disqualification of the entry by the judges.

d Students must ensure that they have fully completed the coversheet. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

7. **Judging:** Entries will be evaluated by two judges who are appointed each year by the ASCS award co-ordinator. The judges will not provide comments for candidates on individual pieces of work, nor will they engage in correspondence with candidates.

8. Candidates will be notified by e-mail (at the address provided) of the result of their entry, normally by the end of February. The winner will receive a cash prize (currently $500); up to two "runner-up" prizes of $100 each may be awarded. The results of the competition will be published in the Society's Newsletter. Prize-winning essays may be published in the journal *Classicum*.

9. The co-ordinator is Dr. Andrew Connor (andrew.connor@monash.edu) to whom campus representatives should send all submissions, and to whom all candidates can (and are very encouraged to) direct further questions.