

LDA Design Bursary Challenge 2023: Turning gown towards town

Higher education can be the stepping-stone to a better life, but it still remains relatively exclusive. For too many people it is hard to access, then once you are in, hard to feel accepted.

Every student wants to feel a sense of belonging and connection, including to nature. We believe that 'place' is central to breaking down barriers.

For this bursary, your challenge is to imagine how the place where you learn, whether campus or college, could change to be more inviting, supportive, and equitable. Education holds the key to addressing the greatest challenges facing humanity and the natural world, and we want you to show us how your thinking is in tune with a threatened planet.

You set the scale. We are looking for originality in thinking. You could rethink a small space or how the whole campus should change to integrate with the city that surrounds it. How could the campus you study at or the world outside your window transform and evolve to help address the biggest challenges ahead? What kind of place do you imagine?

In your submission, please describe your campus vision in the way that best helps the idea to shine out, original and clearly expressed. The choice is yours. It can be a design or spatial plan (2 x A2 max), an illustrated essay (one image + 1,000-word limit), a video (five minutes max), storyboard or model. It could even be initial research, engaging with your fellow students or staff members.

If opting for video, model or storyboard, please include a 500-word description to summarise your entry. All entrants must submit one standalone headline image (a minimum of 2500x1500px) that best captures your thinking.

Assessing responses to this challenge

In assessing entries, we will be looking for evidence of connecting people and place through landscape, and for ideas that challenge the status quo, and which reflect and respond to LDA Design's [values](#).

The judges will use three criteria:

1. New thinking on the environmental challenges facing society.
2. A clear focus on equity and inclusion and the needs of students, staff and local people.
3. Solutions that are responsive to heritage, place and context.

The judging of submissions will take account of levels of experience. We will take great care in making our decisions to award and all decisions are final. One or more bursary award will be made to those who have faced financial or other challenges in pursuing higher education.

The award is conditional on your enrolling and/or continuing with your degree or post-graduate studies in the UK. If you are successful, we will also ask for your CV.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 29 September at midnight. Please email or WeTransfer your entry and your completed application form to: bursaries@lda-design.co.uk

Good luck.