Call for Submissions to the 5th Annual Image of Research Competition 2023-2024

# What is Image of Research Competition at Illinois State?

The annual ***Image of Research Competition at Illinois State*** competition invites graduate and undergraduate students to create or capture one compelling static image of their research to share with the public along with a brief narrative (150 words maximum) that **explains how the image relates to their research.** The competition gives students the opportunity to engage creatively with their research, share behind-the-scenes views of their research processes, or portray their scholarship in visual form.

Static images may take any form, including photographs, drawings, or digital creations, but they must be created by the student.

All entries will be evaluated by a jury. Finalists’ entries will be included in pop-up exhibit and reception, *February 8, 2024, 4-6pm*. Winner will receive monetary awards of up to $200; and be featured in a number of events on campus including recognition at the spring University Research Reception.

The Image of Research at Illinois State Competition is sponsored by the Office of Student Research, Milner Library, and University Galleries.

# Who is eligible?

All Illinois State University graduate and undergraduate students who currently enrolled and are in good academic standing may submit an entry. Each person may submit only one entry. Only individual entries are allowed (no groups). Each submission must include a faculty mentor. Students are responsible for submitting their own work.

# How do I enter?

Follow the submission link on [OSR’s Image of Research webpage](https://studentresearch.illinoisstate.edu/opportunities/image/). You will need your @ilstu email and password to log-in.

Your submission will consist of:

1. One static image. The image you submit may represent your research either concretely or abstractly. It should be visually interesting so that it captures viewers’ attention. The image must be uploaded as a digital file that meets the following criteria.
* Maximum file size of 50 MB
* Minimum resolution of 300 ppi.
* Image must be at least 10 inches on the longest end.
* Image must be in TIFF, JPEG, or JPEG2 format

For help formatting your image, contact studentresearch@ilstu.edu

1. A brief abstract (150 words maximum). The abstract should convey how the image captures or reflects your research topic, process, or results. The abstract must be written for a general audience (jargon-free) and should clearly communicate the connection between your image and your research.

Ask your mentor to proof-read your submission—writing counts!

1. Completed application form (on InfoReady Application site), including answers to the following questions:
2. Do you give Illinois State permission to display and archive your image?

All finalists must sign a completed [ISU license Agreement](a%29%09.%20https%3A/forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/milner_institutional_repository_submission). This agreement allows ISU to archive your image in Milner Library’s [Research and eData Institutional Repository](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/exhibit/image-of-research-at-illinois-state-university/) for long term preservation. See the previous years’ [Image of Research Exhibits](https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/exhibit/image-of-research-at-illinois-state-university).

1. Does all the imagery in your submission belong to you?

You must affirmation that you are principal creator and owner of the image. If your submission contains imagery or material that you took from another source (called “third-party content”), you must provide evidence your have rights to use the material. If the image you submit contains third-party content, it might still be allowed if it has been altered and mixed with other content to form an original creation. Submission of an unaltered third-party image is not permitted. Any use of images or materials that are under copyright by a third party must either fall under fair use or the entrant must obtain the relevant permissions and signed release forms. These forms will be held by the Office of Student Research. If you use third party content, or are unsure, you must discuss your submission with OSR before it is accepted.

1. Does your image portray identifiable individuals? If so, you must affirm that you have permission to reproduce their likeness in your submission. Please use [Photo Release Forms](https://universitymarketing.illinoisstate.edu/umc/photography/) available on the University Marketing website (Release forms also available in Spanish).
2. Approval from a faculty mentor or sponsor. Once you have completed your submission, the faculty member will receive an automatic email asking them to approve your submission.

# How will the winners be determined?

All submissions will be judged by a multidisciplinary panel of jurors for:

* Visual Impact – Make it compelling!
* Originality – Make it original!
* Strong connection between image, text, and research – Explain the image and research concisely in your abstract.

Previous years’ jurors have included professional artists, art critics, a New York Times editor, directors of art divisions at major corporations.

In addition, voting for a Peoples’ Choice award takes place during the Finalists’ Exhibit and Reception.

# When will finalists and winners be announced?

Finalists for the competition will be announced early Spring 2024 semester. Their images will be printed in large format for exhibition.

Winners of all awards will be announced at the Finalists’ Exhibit and Reception, Thursday, February 8, 4-6pm at [University Galleries](https://galleries.illinoisstate.edu/), 11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL.

Winners/Finalists are often also displayed at events in venues throughout the Spring semester.

# What can I win?

Winning submissions will receive a cash award. If you are an international student, please note that your award may be subject to tax withholding.

1st place Graduate Student $200

2nd place Graduate Student $150

Graduate Honorable Mention(s) $50

People’s Choice Award $100

1st place Undergraduate Student $200

2nd place Undergraduate Student $150

Undergraduate Honorable Mention(s) $50

People’s Choice Award $100

# What if I have questions or need help with my image or abstract?

Contact Gina Hunter, Director of the Office of Student Research, glhunt2@ilstu.edu

Or

Zoe Birsa, OSR G.A. zbirsa@ilstu.edu