

Photo Synthesis: CDU's Research through the Lens 2026 Competition and Exhibition Terms and Conditions

Aim

1. Photo Synthesis: CDU's Research through the Lens 2026 Competition and Exhibition ("the Competition and Exhibition") aims to showcase the visual side of the incredible research conducted at Charles Darwin University ("CDU"), across all faculties and disciplines.

Entry Guidelines

2. These terms and conditions apply to the Competition and Exhibition and by submitting an entry entrants agree to have accepted and be bound by these terms and conditions.
3. Any entry that does not comply with these terms and conditions may be deemed invalid and ineligible to receive a prize.
4. The Competition and Exhibition is open from 12:00am on ACST Friday, April 17 2026 until a date to be determined by CDU ("the Competition Period").
5. CDU reserves the right to reduce or extend the Competition Period at its discretion.
6. The Competition and Exhibition is open to all current CDU and Menzies School of Health Research academic research staff (including adjuncts) and currently enrolled Higher Degree by Research students at CDU aged 18 years and over, across all faculties and disciplines.
7. Entry into the Competition and Exhibition is free.
8. Photographs eligible for entry include but are not limited to depictions of: landscapes, architecture, nature, flowers, animals, portraits, headshots, fashion, sport, documentary, black and white, micro and macro photography and aerial/drone photography.
9. Entrants must:
 - a. Submit an entry via the link <https://www.cdu.edu.au/media-communications/photo-synthesis> and complete the entry details;
 - b. Submit a photograph taken by themselves;
 - c. Submit a photograph taken while conducting research at CDU in the last two years either domestically or internationally;
 - d. Submit a completed CDU Talent Release Form confirming that each person has consented to the use of their image for the purposes of the Competition and Exhibition where a person is identifiable in an entry.
10. Entrants may submit three (3) entries but only one (1) entry per person will be eligible to receive a prize. Past entrants and winners are free to enter the Competition. However, photographs previously submitted to the Competition and Exhibition will not be accepted.
11. All entries will be displayed in a publicly available online gallery.
12. Any entries deemed by CDU to be inappropriate or offensive will be excluded from the Competition and Exhibition and ineligible to receive a prize.
13. By submitting an entry, each entrant warrants to CDU that:
 - a. All details provided with their entry are true and accurate;
 - b. The entrant owns or has the right to submit their entry for the Competition and Exhibition;
 - c. The entrant has obtained written consent from any person featured in their entry to use that person's image for the purposes of the Competition and Exhibition;
 - d. Their entry, and CDU's use of their entry, will not:

- i. infringe any person's copyright or other intellectual property rights;
 - ii. infringe any person's privacy rights or any applicable privacy laws; or
 - iii. breach any other laws.
14. Each entrant grants CDU a perpetual, royalty-free licence to use, reproduce, publish and communicate their entry, including a right to sublicense it to other parties (including posting on CDU's social media accounts), in any format for the purpose of the Competition and Exhibition and for CDU's marketing and promotional purposes.

Judging and Prizes

15. A panel established by CDU will judge all valid entries within the Competition Period and select a Shortlist ("Shortlist") of twenty (20) entries based on:
- a. Creativity and originality;
 - b. Aesthetic merit; and
 - c. Technical skill and quality.
16. All submitted entries will be renamed with an anonymous code, e.g. AB1, AC1, AD1 and presented to the judging panel.
17. A person who submits more than one entry will have a code which reflects they have made multiple submissions, e.g. AB1, AB2, AB3.
18. The Shortlist entries will be displayed in a publicly available online gallery, at Midpul Art Gallery at CDU, and to be determined CDU events such as Open Day.
19. The Competition and Exhibition is not a game of chance and chance plays no part in determining the prize winners.
20. The Shortlist will be presented to CDU staff, students, and the public who will vote on their favourite entry through an online survey/poll.
21. One (1) vote will be accepted per person.
22. The prizes will consist of:
- a. First place: A \$1,500 credit to be applied solely for current and future research projects;
 - b. Second place: A\$1,000 credit to be applied solely for current and future research projects;
 - c. Third place: A \$500 credit to be applied solely for current and future research projects.
23. Prizes cannot be redeemed for cash.
24. The prize winners will be notified within seven (7) days of the end of the Competition Period by email. Prize winners will also be published on CDU's website and social media accounts.
25. The decisions regarding the awarding of prizes are final and will be binding on each entrant.
26. If after reasonable efforts a prize winner cannot be contacted, cannot accept a prize or is deemed to be ineligible to receive a prize, CDU reserves the right to refer to the survey/poll to determine the next prize winner.
27. If any event prevents or hinders the Competition and Exhibition or CDU's ability to deliver a prize, CDU may in its absolute discretion cancel the Competition and Exhibition, select another prize winner, or provide a similar prize of equivalent value.
28. CDU may refuse to award a prize, or seek its recovery, in the event of the relevant entrant's fraud, dishonesty, or non-entitlement under, or breach of, these terms and conditions. In the event of a dispute concerning the identity of the person who submits an entry, the entry will be deemed to have been submitted by the owner of the email account on which the entry is posted.

Personal Information

29. Each entrant consents to CDU using any personal information supplied or connected with their entry for the purposes of the Competition and Exhibition and for CDU marketing and promotional purposes.
30. CDU handles personal information in accordance with its Privacy and Confidentiality Policy which can be found at the following link: <https://policies.cdu.edu.au/view-current.php?id=1>

Disclaimer and Liability

31. CDU accepts no responsibility for invalid, misdirected, lost or delayed entries, any incorrect or inaccurate information, any equipment or technical error, or for any defect in, theft, destruction, unauthorised access to or alteration of any entry.
32. To the extent permitted by law, CDU will not be liable for any injury, damages, expenses, or loss whatsoever (whether direct or indirect) to persons or property as a result of any person entering the Competition and Exhibition or accepting or using any prize, including without limitation nonreceipt of any prize.
33. Each entrant indemnifies CDU from and against all actions, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages and expenses in any way related to arising from any misrepresentation or error by the relevant entrant, or any breach by the entrant of third-party privacy and/or intellectual property rights.
34. To the extent permitted by law, all warranties in respect of the prize, whether express, implied, statutory or otherwise, are excluded. To the extent such warranties cannot be excluded by law but liability can lawfully be limited, liability is limited at CDU's option to replacing the prize or the cost of replacing the prize or acquiring an equivalent item.
35. The Competition and Exhibition is in no way sponsored, endorsed or administered by, or associated with CDU's social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn, and any questions, comments or complaints regarding the Competition and Exhibition should be directed to CDU.
36. Each entrant releases Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and any of CDU's social media channels and all liability for any loss, damage or injury arising out of or in relation to the Competition and Exhibition.
37. The Competition and Exhibition is conducted under, and must be construed by, the laws of the Northern Territory and the laws of the Northern Territory govern the terms and conditions of the Competition and Exhibition.