

Motion to Amend the NaSTA's Awards Categories

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This Association notes:

1. There are currently twenty-four award categories, which is the maximum number of awards. That in the past, award evenings have been seen to run for up to six hours which has received negative feedback from industry professionals.
2. Student Television Alumni Network have audited the awards categories and the NaSTA Exec have undertaken multiple rounds of feedback with member stations, including previous host stations, on proposed changes to the NaSTA award categories.

This Association believes:

1. The Awards Programme is too long, which has a negative impact with judges and industry professionals who are invited to attend the awards.
2. Stations are pressed for time to submit to all award categories, with other priorities such as coursework, elections and varsity events.
3. The Award Categories should be clearly defined, with detailed guidance on how judges should score the entries submitted.
4. There should be a maximum of twenty awards.
5. More emphasis should also be put on the content of the awards evening, making it more engaging and interactive for people in the audience, and create a celebratory event for everyone involved in Student TV.

This Association resolves:

1. To reduce the number of NaSTA Award categories to 20 defined in Appendix 1: Proposed list of NaSTA Awards.
2. To create a set of judging guidelines, as proposed in Appendix 3

This Association mandates:

1. That any reference to the maximum number of awards categories in NaSTA's documentation be updated to twenty.
2. That any existing documentation regarding awards categories and rules be updated following guidance from the appendices below.
3. The Exec to redefine the The Mars Elkins El-Broggy Award for Multi-platform Content in consultation with both NaSTA stations and Mars Elkins El-Broggy to ensure it meets the demand for an award recognising collaborative content produced with other parts of student media and the various ways in which stations engage with their online audience.

Appendix 1: Proposed list of NaSTA Awards

1). Animation - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single animation programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series), or an original piece of animation of any type, which has been produced by the station. This can include but is not limited to:

- Cartoons
- Computer generated images
- Title sequences

2). Best Broadcaster - Entry format: 10 minute video & 500 word report

A showreel demonstrating the range, quality and skills of the station and its programming, to be accompanied by a written report, with details of the operation of the station and contributions made which may not necessarily appear on screen. Written accompaniments will be accepted in .pdf or plain text format and must not exceed 500 words.

3). Best On-screen Female - Entry format: 5 minute video

A showreel to show the skills, styles and techniques of a particular female presenter or actor. Any self defining female may enter this category.

4). Best On-screen Male - Entry format: 5 minute video

A showreel to show the skills, styles and techniques of a particular male presenter or actor. Any self defining male may enter this category.

5). Best Station Marketing - Entry format: 10 minute video & 500 word report

Recruiting and retaining members, and building an audience are two of the biggest challenges faced by student TV stations. This award recognises the efforts that stations go to to ensure that they have an active membership and that their content is watched and valued by their university, local and national viewers.

A video submission demonstrating the achievements of your station's marketing recognising how your station recruited members and built audiences across your campus and online, incorporating special events, advertising, social media and on-air branding and idents. The submission must be accompanied by a written document detailing marketing strategies, tools, and techniques used by your station. Written accompaniments will be accepted in .pdf or plain text format and must not exceed 500 words.

6). Best Writing - 30 page script & 5 minute video

A script in any genre or format, for any kind of show produced by the station. This can include, but is not limited to, fictional teleplays, factual links and features, documentary scripts, live scripts, news piece, etc.

The category requires a script of 30 pages maximum. Writing may be from a single programme or shortened from an episode or series.

A 5 minute video (maximum). This is for reference, rather than being judged for its own qualities. It should demonstrate how the submitted script has been visualised on screen.

7). Cinematography - Entry format: 10 minute video

An opportunity for filmmakers to showcase their best work, demonstrating a knowledge of appropriate lighting, camera moves and other associated techniques of the craft, and how well these things are implemented in film or television. This showreel should be made up of content from a single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series)

8). Comedy - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme or series episode that aims to make the viewer laugh, including, but not limited to:

- Sitcoms
- Comedy Dramas
- Stand-up
- Sketch Shows

9). Documentary & Factual - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) featuring factual material, presented in any format.

10). Drama - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) of original scripted dramatic production. Note: Sitcoms or dramatic productions which are primarily comedic should be entered for the Comedy category.

11). Freshers' Week Coverage - Entry format: 10 minute video

This category recognises the quality and diversity of a station's covering of their campus' Freshers' week(s) activities. This category also includes all including all freshers' themed content.

12). The JISC Award for Special Recognition - Entry format: 750 word report

This category looks for a station worthy of special recognition for outstanding achievement, especially with respect to the station's commitment to overcoming challenging circumstances and achievement through innovation in the past year.

No video submission is required. Written accompaniments will be accepted in .pdf or plain text format and must not exceed 750 words.

13). Light Entertainment - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) intended as light entertainment.

14). Live Broadcast - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) that has been broadcast live or shot as-live by your station. Entries for this category must not have had any audio or video processing applied after transmission. Entries may be edited in post production to produce a showreel e.g. any part of the broadcast edited together to music, but must not have processing to fix technical problems that were present during the broadcast e.g. edit

music from a multitrack recording, compressors/gates applied, colour correction, exposure changes, filters.

15). The Mars Elkins El-Broggy Award for Multi-platform Content - Entry format: 5 minute video & 500 word report

A showreel demonstrating effective, innovative and strong use of multimedia content with an accompanying document.

16). News & Current Affairs - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) that demonstrates coverage of university, local community, national or international news. It demonstrates an understanding of television journalism and utilises, where appropriate, the skills of video journalism.

17). Post Production - Entry format: 10 minute video

A single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) showreel demonstrating excellent post production and editing skills.

18). Sport - Entry format: 10 minute video

Coverage of a sporting event or a single programme (or a shortened edit from an episode or series) which features live or recorded sport, and/or comments on sport or sports facilities.

19). Technical Achievement & Development - Entry format: 750 word report with optional diagrams/pictures

A report which gives an account of any technical achievement(s) and/or developed to support your station's output. Entries will demonstrate both the technical challenges faced and overcome, and the benefits this brought to the production(s).

No video submission is required. Written accompaniments will be accepted in .pdf or plain text format and must not exceed 500 words.

20). Title Sequence - Entry format: 90 second video & up to 100 word report describing the programme.

The introductory sequence to one of your station's programmes. The very beginning of an exemplar programme may be included. This entry must be a complete video not a cut down video or an edited highlights reel. The submission must not exceed 90 seconds.

Please note the 100 word description of the programme is provided to help judge how well the entry introduces the programme. This is supplementary evidence and not judged in itself.

Appendix 2: Proposed NaSTA Award Entry Rules

Submission Compliance Terms and Conditions General

1. Stations affiliated to National Student Television Association may enter each category only once. Stations may choose not to enter any categories of their choosing.

2. Stations may repeat clips, but each entry must contain 90% unique footage that cannot then be repeated in any other category. However, this excludes:
 - a. Title Sequence entry, which may be taken from a programme that is then submitted for another category.
 - b. A Best Writing entry, which may be taken from a programme that is then submitted for another category.
 - c. Entries for Best On-Screen Talent, Best Drama Performance, Best Broadcaster, Best Cinematography, and Station Marketing, which may make use of clips from entries in other categories.
 - d. A Live Broadcast entry, which may contain content from a programme that is then submitted for another category. These entries should be fundamentally different and not the same edit submitted twice for two categories, however they may share the same content.
3. All entries must be original works produced for your student television station, by members of your student television station.
4. No entries may have been written or produced as a part of any piece of assessed coursework.
5. Stations may submit entries as a joint submission with any number of National Student Television Association affiliated stations. The stations must agree which category to enter, and must then independently submit identical submissions, with both stations clearly stating that they wish the entry to be considered as a joint submission.
6. The time and word limits for each category are the absolute maximums (excluding title slides and cover pages). If your entry exceeds the given time or word limit, the entry will be cut (working back from the end of the video or document) to fit the allowed limit, and no appeal will be permitted. Cut material will not be judged. Stations may submit an entry of less than the specified time or length.
7. All entries submitted must be accompanied by any additional entry information requested by the Host Station. Examples include, but are not limited to; metadata, video titles, entry descriptions, and other items of information pertaining to the entry.
8. All entries must have been comprised from content produced (i.e. finalised and completed for viewing) since last year's awards submissions deadline. In this regard, 'completed for viewing' will be deemed to mean 'has been broadcast', either as a live programme, or as a piece of content delivered either through Video on Demand services or prerecorded content being broadcast live. The intention behind this is that all entries should be comprised from content delivered to viewers via any medium within the last year. The use of archive content will be permitted where that content does not comprise more than 10% of the programme, or where the Host Station or Executive Committee rules that the submitted awards entry would not work without the use of that archive content. In regard to any decisions made regarding 'fair use' of archive content, then the National Executive Committee's decision will be final. The use of content that your station is not entitled to, including, but not limited to, video footage from other stations or broadcasters, is strictly forbidden. It is expected that stations should not submit the same entry to more than one year's awards. This will be assessed on a case by case basis by the Host Station or National Executive

Committee, and the judge may be informed, or depending on severity, the entry may be disqualified.

9. Submissions must conform to the upload and submissions process detailed in the submissions National Student Television Association Conference and Awards Submission Guide procedure document released by the Host Station. Stations who cannot meet these specifications must contact the Host Station and agree an alternative method of submission.
10. Entries must be submitted by the deadline set by the Host Station. Late submissions will strictly not be accepted unless the following criteria are met; Your station contacted the host station immediately, and with plenty of notice, upon realising there was an issue with your ability to meet the submissions deadline. The fault was through no fault of your own – such as power cuts to the building. Not leaving enough time for videos to encode or upload on time will strictly not be considered as a valid reason for extenuating circumstances. It is your responsibility to make sure that ample time is left for your videos to encode into the correct format and be uploaded on time. The Host Station and National Executive Committee shall have the final decision regarding any decisions made about late entries.
11. All entries submitted which do not follow these rules risk not being entered into the awards. The Host Station may set sanctions for any and all breaks to these rules at their discretion. The National Executive Committee will then decide whether or not to uphold these proposed sanctions or to amend the sanction proposed.
12. Entries must not breach National Student Television Association's equal opportunities policy. National Student Television Association is mandated to ensure no member of the association shall ever harass or discriminate against, or be subject to harassment or discrimination, on the grounds of their age, beliefs, physical status, race, sex, sexual orientation or any other characteristic, physical, mental or otherwise. The Host Station retains the right not to display any content on their website that breaches their students' union or university's policy. The Host Station may add a disclaimer before any entry if it feels it is necessary in the interests of their duty of care to potential viewers and the interest of the high standards of professionalism National Student Television Association aims to promote.
13. Upon completion of the submissions deadlines, the Host Station should review and assess the entries submitted for the year for rulebreaks.
14. The Host Station will have their own entries assessed by the Returning Officer or Deputy Returning Officer to avoid any conflict of interest.
15. If a rule break is suspected, the Host Station (or Returning Officer), will recommend a list of rulebreaks and proposed sanctions to the National Executive Committee at the conclusion of the review process.
16. The National Executive Committee will then meet and review the sanctions within five working days of the list being offered to them, and decide which sanctions stand and which are amended or overturned. The Returning Officer shall chair this meeting.
17. The Host Station retains the right to transcode any entry not submitted in accordance with the National Student Television Association Awards technical specifications into one of the approved formats. Any station whose entry is being transcoded should be notified of this.

18. 18.0. The Host Station should, where sanctions are considered, use one of the following sanctions;
- a. Informing the category judge of the terms of the rule break.
 - b. Replacing sections of an entry that breach the rules with black frames, and for where the audio is in breach of the rules, silence. Alternatively, Host Stations may recommend replacing sections of an entry that breach the rules with SMPTE 100% Colour Bars and where the audio breaches the rules, 1 kHz tone.
 - c. Disqualification of the entry.
 - d. Any other suitable sanction that the Host Station or Executive imposes. This is intended only to be used where it can be demonstrated that the other available sanctions are unsuitable.
19. Any station whose entry faces sanctions shall be permitted to appeal this decision within five working days of their being notified of any sanctions to the Returning Officer, who will invite the station to present their case to the National Executive Committee.
- a. Stations cannot appeal against a decision to cut down an entry if they have exceeded the duration limit. They will be notified of the decision to cut the entry down.
 - b. Any station who does not contact the executive to appeal, or whose appeal is overruled, shall face the sanctions proposed.
 - c. Any station whose appeal is successful shall have the right to have the sanctions removed from their entry.
20. No category shall be sent to the relevant judge until the conclusion of the appeals process for that category. For example, if there is a sanction facing an entry in Best On-Screen Talent, all other categories can be sent to the appropriate judges, but Best On-Screen Talent cannot.

Appendix 3: Proposed NaSTA Award Judging Guidelines

The Guidelines for Scoring Animation, Comedy, Documentary & Factual, Drama, Light Entertainment, Live Broadcast, News & Current Affairs, and Sport are:

Creativity - /5

Technical Ability (camera work, sound quality etc.) - /5

How accurately it meets the spec - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Best Broadcaster are:

Creativity - /5

Technical Ability (camera work, sound quality etc.) - /5

Range of Programming - /5

Overall quality of showreel - /5

The Guidelines for Scoring Best On-Screen Female & Male:

On-Screen presence - /10

Technique - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Station Marketing:

Creativity - /5

Online Presence- /5

Audience Engagement- /5

Membership Engagement- /5

The Guidelines for Scoring Best Writing:

Creativity - /10

Technique (language, style, etc) - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Cinematography:

Creativity - /10

Technique - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Freshers' Week Coverage:

Quality of content - /5

Variety of content - /5

How the showreel tells the story of Freshers' Week - /5

Engagement - /5

The Guidelines for Scoring Post Production:

Creativity - /10

Technique (colour correction / grading, sound design / mixing, VFX, graphics) - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Best Technical Achievement & Development:

Benefit to the Station - /5

Creativity - /5

Technical Achievement - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring Title Sequence:

Creativity - /5

Technique (camera work, sound quality etc) - /5

How well it introduces the programme - /10

The Guidelines for Scoring The JISC Award for Special Recognition:

/20

Selected stations will be invited to an interview with a representative of JISC

The Guidelines for Scoring The Mars Elkins EI-Broggy Award for Multi-platform Content:

/20

Selected stations will be invited to an interview with Mars Elkins EI-Broggy

