

Research Prize 2026 – Regulations

South West Division

1. The South West Division Research Prize will take the form of a competition in which resident doctor psychiatrists and non-consultant psychiatrists (individually or as a team) will be invited to submit an example of research across the whole spectrum of modern psychiatric practice.
2. All entrants must be [Specialist Associates, Affiliates, PMPTs or Members](#) of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and working within the [South West Division](#) area for at least six months prior to the date of submission.
3. A resident doctor psychiatrist is a CRD1-3 or SRD4-7. A non-consultant post includes SAS doctors.
4. Nominations can be made by self, colleague or member of the multi-disciplinary team, any College member or the Scientific Organising Committee of the Conference.
5. Written abstracts should be no more than 500 words and accompanied by a completed entry form, which should be emailed to southwest@rcpsych.ac.uk by the closing date of **30 September 2026, at 9am**. Postal entries will not be accepted.
6. The winning abstract will be published in the conference booklet and the winning entrant will be invited to present their project to a live audience at the Autumn Conference on **13 November 2026**.
7. The live presentation should be 20 minutes in length, plus 5 minutes for questions. Any accompanying presentation slides should be submitted by 6 November 2026. Guidance on how to transfer the file will be provided.
8. The research paper discussed must have been written by the entrant and published during the calendar year prior to the date of submission.
9. All entrants must be explicit in their entry about their contribution to the submitted work and that of all other named contributors. Entrants must have made a substantial contribution to the work to qualify for selection.
10. Entries will be assessed by a panel of three Judges, one of whom will be a member of the South West Division Executive Committee.
11. The areas marked will be (1) Methodological rigour, (2) Originality, (3) Likely benefit to patients, (4) Sustainability and combatting climate change, and (5) Quality of submission.
12. The prize will be awarded only if, in the opinion of the judges, at least one entry is of a sufficient standard to merit the prize.
13. The Judges' views will be final. The Judges will not be available for correspondence with entrants on any subject related to the assessment of entries.
14. A First Prize certificate and £100 will be awarded to the overall winner. Further Judges Prize certificates may be awarded at the discretion of the Judges.
15. There is an expectation that anyone entering the prize will be able to attend the Autumn Conference on 13 November 2026. Entrants can register to attend on the Royal College of Psychiatrists website.
16. Announcements will be placed on the [Prizes and bursaries in the south west](#) web page and in the following divisional e-newsletter to note the winning entrants.