

Innovation Prize 2026 – Regulations

South West Division

1. The South West Innovation Prize will take the form of a competition in which psychiatric resident doctors, consultants, SAS doctors, lecturers and senior lecturers in psychiatry (individually or as a team) will be invited to submit an example of innovation across the whole spectrum of modern psychiatric practice.
2. All entrants must be [Specialist Associates, Affiliates, PMPTs, Members or Fellows](#) of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and working within the [South West Division](#) area for at least six months prior to the closing date.
3. Nominations can be made by self, colleague or member of the multi-disciplinary team, any College member or the Scientific Organising Committee of the Biannual Meeting.
4. Each proposal should be no more than 500 words and accompanied by a completed entry form, to be emailed to southwest@rcpsych.ac.uk by the closing date of **27 March 2026**. Postal entries will not be accepted.
5. 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 virtual Spring Biannual Meeting on **12 May 2026**.
6. The live presentation should be 10 minutes in length, plus 5 minutes for questions. Any accompanying presentation slides should be submitted by 7 May 2026. Guidance on how to transfer the file will be provided.
7. 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. Only one innovation may be submitted per applicant.
8. Entries will be assessed before the meeting by a panel of three Judges, one of whom will be a member of the Executive Committee.
9. The areas marked will be (1) Innovation/originality, (2) Practical application, (3) Likely benefit to patients, and (4) Sustainability and combatting climate change, and (5) Quality of submission.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. There is an expectation that anyone entering the prize will be able to attend the virtual Spring Biannual Meeting on 12 May 2026. Entrants can register to attend on the Royal College of Psychiatrists website.
14. Announcements will be placed on the South West Division section of the Royal College of Psychiatrists website to note the winning entrants.