

Terms and Conditions

1. The competition is only open to nationals of OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation².
2. Applicants must be 35 years old or younger (born after 1st January 1986). Winners will be requested to send their identification documents (passport copy) to facilitate administrative arrangements and travel to Austria (Ref: Standard Compliance Statement).
3. Individuals currently employed by the OSCE, including interns, are not permitted to participate in this competition.
4. Essay maximum word count: 2,500-4,000, excluding footnotes/bibliography and the abstract.
5. All essays must be submitted in English.
6. Only one essay is allowed per applicant of the competition. Once an essay has been submitted, the applicant will not have the opportunity to revise it.
7. All essays must be an original work by the applicant. All essays must be texts that have not been published elsewhere. Quotes and concepts taken from published and unpublished sources must be clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. Citations must follow Chicago style, and applicants can at any time be requested to provide clarification of the source. Any paper with content that can be identified as plagiarism will immediately be disqualified.
8. The essays should be submitted in MS Word format with the following settings:
 - Font: Times New Roman, size 12
 - Page orientation: Portrait
 - Margins set at “normal” (top: 2.54cm, bottom: 2.54cm, left: 2.54cm, right: 2.54cm)
 - Line spacing: 1.5 lines
9. The overall themes for the Young CSBM Scholars 2021 are as follows:
 - The OSCE’s role in enhancing trust and stability and reducing military risks in Europe, including its use of instruments of conventional arms control (CAC), and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs)
 - The impact of new technologies and new types of conventional weapons on security and stability in Europe
 - The role of new technologies in enhancing CAC and verification
 - Lessons learnt from other regions to enhance military stability and security in Europe with respect to the above-mentioned domains
 - The potential contribution of gender-sensitive approaches to the above-mentioned domains of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe

Notes: The following topics are **not** covered by this essay competition: missile defence, subregional conflict situations, deterrence and nuclear force postures, hybrid threats, cyber security.

10. The submission should be made per e-mail to essay-competition2021@osce.org

² For more information on the OSCE membership, please see <https://www.osce.org/participating-states> and <https://www.osce.org/partners-for-cooperation>

- With the subject “Essay Competition 2021 applicant’s family name” in the subject line - E.g. Essay Competition 2021 Bauer
- Have the essay as an attachment in MS Word format
- Contain the following information on the title page
 - Applicant’s first and last name as in the passport
 - Title (gender)
 - Contact details
 - Affiliation with one of the following:
 - university student
 - professional in academia, think tanks or NGO
 - professional at industry/private sector
 - state institution/public sector
 - other (please specify)
 - If a student, in what programme enrolled (Bachelors, Masters, Doctoral Programme)
 - Citizenship
 - Essay title
 - Word count, excluding footnotes and bibliography, abstract, list of acronyms, table of contents, acknowledgements, cover page.

11. Only entries submitted before **Sunday, 1 August 2021**, at 11:59 p.m., Vienna Time (CET) will be considered for the competition.

12. Criteria for assessment of papers

Definition of the Problem, Research Question and Research Design
Clear line of argument based on evidence
Policy Relevance
Structure and Writing
Presentation and Referencing

Disclaimer: Decisions concerning the selection of winners are final and not appealable. The Organizer reserves the right to award fewer or no prizes in any contest if, in its sole discretion, it does not receive a sufficient number of eligible and qualified entries for that contest.

The winners will need to sign the OSCE “Standard Compliance Statement” before receiving the awards.