International Commission on Illumination
Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage
Internationale Beleuchtungskommission

From Learning to Leading

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

CIE Global Student Challenge 2027

AI Visualisation for Light and Lighting

From Learning to Leading, Growing with CIE



Challenge at a Glance

WHO	FORMAT	OUTPUT	DEADLINE
Undergraduate, master's and doctoral students worldwide	Individual or teams of up to 6 students	1–3-minute HD video + short statement	15 March 2027 (23:59 CET)

Imagine Light Differently

The CIE invites students from universities and higher-education institutions around the world to take part in the CIE Global Student Challenge 2027. The Challenge asks you to use generative AI as a creative tool to explore, visualise and communicate ideas about light and lighting. Your work may be scientific, technical, architectural, environmental, artistic or interdisciplinary — what matters is that it communicates a meaningful idea about light and lighting in a clear, original and responsible way.

Award-winning and selected entries will be featured through CIE education activities and recognised in connection with the 31st Quadrennial Session of the CIE (CIE 2027) in Nanjing, China.

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Why Take Part?

CREATE	CONNECT	BE RECOGNISED
Experiment with AI-assisted visual storytelling around light and lighting.	Bring your ideas to an international community of experts, designers and educators.	Compete for CIE awards, gain public recognition through CIE media, and have your work showcased at CIE 2027.

Choose Your Theme

1. **Integrative Lighting —** Light, visual experience, daily rhythms, comfort, health and well-being.
2. **Humans and Ecosystems —** Light pollution, darkness, ecology, sustainability and human–environment relationships.
3. **Colour, Spectrum and Perception —** Colour, spectrum, visual perception and changing light.
4. **Daylight in Architecture —** Daylight as an architectural, environmental and experiential medium.
5. **Cross-Cultural Dialogue through Light —** How light is understood, experienced and expressed across cultures and societies.
6. **Open Theme —** An original idea related to light and lighting that does not fit neatly into the themes above.

Who Can Participate?

The Challenge is open to currently enrolled undergraduate, master's and doctoral students worldwide. Students from all disciplines are welcome, including lighting, architecture, urban design, engineering, optics, environmental studies, computer science, artificial intelligence, digital media and the arts.

- Enter individually or as a team of up to six students.
- Each team may name up to three academic supervisors; supervisors are not team members.
- Participation is free of charge and independent of CIE Session 2027 paper/poster submission or conference registration.
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible.
- One entry per team or individual.
- There is a maximum of 300 entries for the competition.

What Will You Submit?

Each entry will include:

- one document (in pdf, docx, or pptx format) written in English and not exceeding 6000 words, including the theme selection, working procedures, and AI prompts & usage declaration;
- one 1–3-minute high-definition presentation video with the following specifications.

FORMAT	DURATION	RESOLUTION	FILE SIZE	LANGUAGE
MP4	1–3 min	1080p	≤ 300 MB (Video & Document)	English narration and/or subtitles

Use AI Creatively and Responsibly

Generative AI is a core creative tool in this Challenge, but the quality of an entry will not be judged by how much AI is used. Students should demonstrate meaningful creative direction, critical judgement and responsibility for the final work.

- Declare the principal AI tools or models used.
- Follow the terms and licensing conditions of the tools used.
- Use only third-party material you are entitled to use and provide appropriate credits.
- Retain key prompts or process evidence until the competition has concluded, in case verification is requested.
- Failure to disclose significant AI use may affect eligibility.

Key Dates

20 Nov 2026	First official announcement
5 Jan 2027	Submission portal opens
15 Mar 2027	Submission deadline (***or earlier if the maximum of 300 entries is reached****)
20 Apr 2027	Winners notified
Jul 2027	Presentation and recognition at CIE 2027 in Nanjing

* The submission system will accept a maximum of 300 complete entries. If the capacity is reached before the deadline, the portal may close earlier. Students are therefore encouraged to submit early.

Awards & Recognition

GOLD PRIZE	SILVER PRIZES	BRONZE PRIZES
1	**Up to 5**	**Up to 8**

Award recipients will receive official CIE recognition and certificates. Selected works will be presented or displayed in connection with CIE 2027. The Gold Prize will receive special recognition during CIE 2027; any additional benefit will be announced once formally confirmed.

International Jury

Entries will be reviewed by an international and interdisciplinary jury bringing together expertise in lighting, science, education, professional design and visual communication.

What Will the Jury Look For?

- Relevance to light, lighting and the selected theme
- Originality and creativity
- Scientific or technical soundness, where applicable
- Quality and effectiveness of visual communication
- Meaningful and responsible use of AI
- Educational and communication value

Judges will declare potential conflicts of interest and will not evaluate entries involving their own students or other direct professional relationships.

Your Work at CIE 2027

Winning and selected entries will be connected to student activities at the 31st Quadrennial Session of the CIE in Nanjing, China, and receive public recognition through CIE media. Students who attend may be invited to present their work and receive awards in person. Unable to travel to Nanjing? You will not lose your award. Alternative arrangements for recognition and presentation will be provided where appropriate.

Copyright, Licensing & Use

Participants retain authorship of their work. As part of the submission process, entrants will be asked to accept the competition's specified Creative Commons licensing and CIE data-use requirements so that eligible works can be evaluated, displayed and communicated for educational and science-communication purposes.

Full terms and conditions will be provided through the official submission portal.

Find out more

Interested in taking part?

Follow CIE channels for the submission link, full rules and templates.
Submission portal opens: 5 January 2027

Organised by the International Commission on Illumination (CIE) — Standing Panel on Education

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