

Maharani Jind Kaur Student Award

Guidelines

The Maharani Jind Kaur student award is a joint project between naujawani and the Sikh Education Council with the aim of encouraging undergraduate students to reflect upon current affairs from a Sikh perspective. Entrants are invited to write an essay on a set topical issue, basing their argument on principles derived from Sikh history, culture and ideology. The award is named in honour of the most recent queen of undivided Punjab, Maharani Jind Kaur, whose vision and resolute commitment to the inalienable sovereignty of the Panth is a standard which every Sikh should aim to emulate.

Entrants must provide their essay and a covering letter by email, no later than the deadline date given

Any form of plagiarism will disqualify your submission - use quotes and give credit where appropriate, providing references.

Include the title, word count and your name on the covering letter.

Use the following guidelines to format your essay document.



Save your document as a pdf file for the purposes of submission - do not send any other format of document.

- Double spaced using font 'Perpetua' in size 11.
- Main headings should be typed in capitals and subheadings in lower case – both underlined.
- Footnotes should be avoided, although notes can be included where necessary to be published at the end of the article.
- Numbering should use roman numbers.
- Page numbers should be at the bottom of each page and should include the total number of pages i.e. page 2 of 8.
- Referencing should follow Harvard referencing guidelines: when an author's name appears in the text, the date should follow in brackets e.g. Ahmad (2000); where there is reference to a page or quotation e.g. Ahmad (2000: 37). References should be placed in alphabetical order at the end of the article.



Write your essay with the aim of the award in mind, following the simplified formatting guidelines detailed above



Write a covering letter that confirms your name, undergraduate degree programme, institution of study and contact details



Ensure that this essay is solely your work and enclose the self-declaration provided as part of your covering letter



Attach the essay and covering letter for submission by email to info@naujawani.com - subject 'Maharani Jind Kaur Student Award'

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2025

Successful entrants will demonstrate that they have carefully considered the aim of the Maharani Jind Kaur student award, namely to reflect upon current affairs from a Sikh perspective. The highest ranking essays will exemplify principles derived from Sikh history, culture and ideology in the context of answering the question. **Applicants are invited to submit an essay before the deadline of 5pm on Friday 24 October, 2025, of between 2,500 and 3,500 words (excluding references and footnotes) answering the essay question:**

**GOVERNANCE WITHOUT SOVEREIGNTY:
HOW CAN CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FUNCTION
IN STATELESS NATIONS?**

In addition to your essay, your covering letter should contain all of the relevant information we need to:

- (1) ascertain that you are eligible to submit an essay - we may check enrolment with your institution;
- (2) contact you as required for the purposes of feedback and publishing;
- (3) confirm that the essay is solely your own work by including the declaration below.

I declare that I have been enrolled in an undergraduate degree programme at a higher education institution in the United Kingdom for the entirety of the 2024-2025 academic year and am submitting this essay solely as my own work. I understand that if my declaration of entry is inaccurate, or if I am found to have committed plagiarism in my essay, I shall be required to pay back any award monies and present myself before the Guru's sangat to apologise and accept an appropriate sanction.

Prizes

The recipient of the award will receive prize money of £2000, with a first runner-up receiving £500 and others sharing £500.

Award

Winners will be expected to participate in an event to receive their award and any associated publicity.

Published

All essays - not only the award winner - may be published by naujawani and the Sikh Education Council at our discretion.