

# Terms & Conditions

## Adriatic.hr Excellence Award

### Article 1 - Organiser and Purpose

**1.1.** The organiser of the “Adriatic.hr Excellence Award” competition (hereinafter: the “Competition”) is **Adriatic.hr d.o.o.**, Poljička cesta 26, 21000 Split, Croatia, **personal identification number: 16364086764** (hereinafter: the “Organiser”).

**1.2.** The purpose of the Competition is to recognise and reward outstanding students enrolled at higher education institutions who demonstrate excellence, in accordance with the criteria set out in these Terms & Conditions.

**1.3.** The Competition is conducted based on the evaluation of applications against pre-defined criteria and does not constitute a lottery or a game of chance.

### Article 2 - Definitions

For the purposes of these Terms & Conditions, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

- A. **“Applicant”** means a person who submits a complete and valid application via the Organiser’s official Google Form during the Application Period.
- B. **“Winner”** means the Applicant selected as the first-place winner.
- C. **“Reserve Winner”** means the next highest-ranked Applicant (or several Applicants in ranking order) who may replace the Winner if the Winner cannot be confirmed or does not meet the requirements to receive the Prize.
- D. **“Finalist”** means an Applicant who, based on the evaluation of the Video Submission, enters the shortlist of top-ranked applications for additional eligibility verification prior to the final confirmation of the Winner.
- E. **“Video Submission”** means video content in English, with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum duration of 3 minutes, in which the Applicant explains why they deserve the award and how they embody excellence in everyday life, submitted via a link provided in the Google Form.
- F. **“Proof of Student Status”** means a document or other credible evidence showing that the Finalist is currently enrolled at a higher education institution. Applicants are encouraged to redact or remove any personal data that is not necessary (e.g., address, unique identification numbers/tax or administrative identifiers, photograph), provided that at least the following remains visible: full name, institution name, and an indication of valid student enrolment/status.
- G. **“Supporting Documentation”** means documents and/or publicly available links that may reasonably substantiate the truthfulness of statements made in the Video Submission (e.g., certificates, decisions, references, official

announcements, links to publications/projects, proof of participation, proof of volunteering, etc.), which the Organiser may request from Finalists and/or the provisional Winner. Applicants are encouraged to redact or remove any personal data that is not necessary, provided that the documentation still enables reasonable verification of the statements.

- H. **“Rubric”** means the set of scoring criteria and categories set out in Article 7 of these Terms & Conditions, according to which the jury evaluates Video Submissions.
- I. **“Voucher”** means a non-transferable, non-cashable accommodation credit in the total value of EUR 3,000.00, which may be used exclusively for accommodation bookings via the Adriatic.hr platform and in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.
- J. **“Catalogue”** means accommodation units published and available for booking on Adriatic.hr at the time of making a specific booking, subject to availability rules.
- K. **“Zagreb Time”** means local time in the Europe/Zagreb time zone (CET/CEST), applicable to all deadlines and time references under the Competition.
- L. **“Landing Page”** means the Organiser’s official Competition webpage containing these Terms & Conditions, the application form link, and related information and notices.

### **Article 3 - Eligibility Requirements**

**3.1.** At the time of submitting the application, and no later than **31 April 2026**, Applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- a) be at least 18 years old;
- b) have valid student status, i.e., be currently enrolled at a higher education institution and be enrolled in at least the 3rd semester of an undergraduate (Bachelor) programme or in a graduate (Master) programme, with the following study stages being eligible:
  - **Bachelor:** semesters 3–8
  - **Master:** semesters 1–4  
(or an equivalent semester/study stage according to the institution’s system);
- c) submit a Video Submission in English, in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.

**3.2.** The following persons are not eligible to participate in the Competition:

- a) employees of the Organiser and its affiliated companies;
- b) external collaborators directly involved in organising the Competition;
- c) immediate family members (spouse/common-law partner, parents, children, siblings) of persons referred to under items (a) and (b).

**3.3.** For the purpose of verifying eligibility requirements, the Organiser may request additional documentation or clarifications from Finalists and/or the provisional Winner (including Proof of Student Status). A reasonable deadline for submitting the requested information is 48 hours from the time the request is sent, unless the Organiser expressly

determines otherwise. Failure to provide the requested information within the deadline may result in disqualification.

#### **Article 4 - Application and Mandatory Submission Requirements**

**4.1.** Applications may be submitted exclusively via the Organiser's official Google Form, available through the link on the Landing Page.

**4.2.** A valid application must include the following mandatory elements:

- a) the Applicant's full name;
- b) the Applicant's email address and phone number (for contact purposes, including contacting the Winner);
- c) confirmation (statement in the Google Form) that the Applicant is currently enrolled at a higher education institution;
- d) a Video Submission link in English, with a minimum duration of 1 minute and a maximum duration of 3 minutes;
- e) consent to the processing of personal data for the purposes of conducting the Competition (mandatory), in accordance with the information provided in the Google Form and/or on the Landing Page.

**4.3.** The video link must be accessible to the Organiser and the jury without requesting access (e.g., without approval requests, login requirements, or additional authorisation). If the Organiser cannot access the video (including, for example, a private video, a removed video, an invalid link, or a link requiring access/login), the application shall be deemed invalid and the Applicant may be disqualified.

**4.4.** Evidence and clarifications are not submitted at the time of application. They are submitted exclusively upon the Organiser's request and only by Finalists and/or the provisional Winner, in accordance with Article 8 of these Terms & Conditions. The Organiser may request:

- (a) Proof of Student Status (that the Applicant is currently enrolled at a higher education institution), and/or
- (b) other evidence that may reasonably substantiate statements made in the Video Submission (e.g., certificates, decisions, official announcements, links to publications/projects, proof of participation or volunteering, etc.).

Such evidence must be submitted by email to **excellence.award@adriatic.hr** (or via the communication channel from which the Finalist was contacted), within the deadlines set out in Article 8. Applicants are encouraged to redact or remove any personal data that is not necessary (e.g., home address, date of birth, unique identification numbers/tax or administrative identifiers, document identification numbers, photograph), provided that the submitted evidence still enables reasonable verification of the statements.

**4.5.** The Organiser reserves the right to declare incomplete, late, or technically defective applications invalid. The Organiser shall not be liable for technical difficulties beyond its reasonable control (e.g., interruption of internet connection or platform-side issues).

## **Article 5 - Application Period and Timeline**

**5.1.** The Competition is open for applications from **1 April 2026 at 00:00** to **30 April 2026 at 23:59**, Zagreb Time.

**5.2.** The Winner selection process will be completed within fifteen (15) calendar days after the application deadline. The planned announcement of results is around **15 May 2026**, and the Organiser reserves the right to change this date for justified reasons.

**5.3.** The Winner must redeem the Voucher, i.e., confirm the stay dates and booking details, no later than **31 May 2026 at 23:59**, Zagreb Time.

**5.4.** The stay must take place between **1 June 2026** and **31 December 2026**, subject to availability, and in accordance with the Catalogue rules and pre-agreed dates.

## **Article 6 - Jury and Evaluation Principles**

**6.1.** Applications are evaluated by a committee (jury) appointed by the Organiser, consisting of three (3) members.

**6.2.** Jury members must act impartially and maintain confidentiality of application materials and personal data. In the event of an actual or potential conflict of interest, a jury member must promptly inform the Organiser and recuse themselves from evaluating the relevant Applicant's submission.

## **Article 7 - Scoring System**

**7.1.** Applications are scored exclusively based on the Video Submission. The maximum score is **20 points**.

**7.2.** The Video Submission is evaluated using a rubric consisting of four (4) categories. Each category is scored from **1 to 5 points** (1 = lowest, 5 = highest). The categories are:

- A. **Academic excellence and intellectual development**  
(examples: academic achievements, recognitions, excellence scholarships, projects, research work, publications, progress and/or other credible indicators of academic excellence and motivation to learn)
- B. **Leadership and ownership**  
(examples: leading student organisations/initiatives, mentoring, leading teams, sports leadership, taking responsibility for results, initiative and independent problem-solving)
- C. **Community impact and innovation**  
(examples: volunteering and community contribution, initiatives benefiting the community, innovation, projects with measurable or clearly positive impact)
- D. **Definition of excellence and content quality (coherence and persuasiveness)**  
clarity of the definition of excellence; concrete, verifiable, and relevant examples;

and the Applicant's ability to connect these examples to their personal definition of excellence and show how they apply it in everyday life.

**7.3.** In the Video Submission, the Applicant must:

- (i) briefly define what excellence means to them; and
- (ii) provide concrete examples that support their statements and explain how they live excellence in everyday life.

For transparency, the Organiser may publish a summary of the rubric on the Landing Page.

**7.4.** Video production quality (camera, editing, lighting, etc.) is not decisive; the evaluation focuses primarily on the content and the quality of statements in accordance with the rubric in Article 7.2.

**7.5.** If two or more Applicants achieve the same score, the jury shall decide by majority vote. The Organiser/jury reserves the right to record a brief justification of the decision.

## **Article 8 - Selection of the Winner, Verification, and Notification**

**8.1.** After scoring the Video Submissions, the Organiser may designate **Finalists**, i.e., a shortlist of the top-ranked Applicants, for the purpose of conducting the verifications under Article 8.2. The Applicant with the highest score is selected as the **provisional Winner** pending completion of the verifications. If the provisional Winner cannot be confirmed or does not meet the requirements to receive the Prize, the Organiser may award the Prize to the next highest-ranked Applicant in score order as a **Reserve Winner**.

**8.2.** Prior to final confirmation of the Winner, the Organiser conducts verifications necessary to confirm the Competition requirements and the credibility of the application, in particular:

- a) verifying the Video Submission's compliance (duration, language, accessibility);
- b) verifying student status for Finalists and/or the provisional Winner (request for Proof of Student Status);
- c) verifying statements made in the Video Submission, to a reasonable extent, based on requested documentation and/or publicly available sources (e.g., certificates, decisions, official announcements, links to publications/projects, proof of participation or volunteering, etc.), at the Organiser's discretion.

**8.3.** The Organiser may contact Finalists using the contact details provided in the application and request submission of the required evidence to **excellence.award@adriatic.hr** (or another contact channel from which the Finalist was contacted). The Finalist must provide the requested evidence within **48 hours** of the request. If the Finalist fails to submit the required evidence within the deadline, or if the submitted documentation does not allow a reasonable verification of the requirements and/or key statements (taking into account the recommendation to redact unnecessary data), the Finalist may be disqualified and the Organiser may continue the process with the next highest-ranked Applicant/Reserve Winner, without reopening the Competition.

**8.4.** If the Organiser requests additional clarifications regarding the submitted evidence, a reasonable deadline of **48 hours** applies, unless the Organiser expressly determines otherwise.

**8.5.** The Winner will be notified by email and by phone using the contact details provided in the application.

**8.6.** The Winner must confirm receipt of the notification and acceptance of the Prize within **48 hours** from the moment the notification is sent by email and when the Organiser has made at least one attempt to reach the Winner by phone. If the Winner does not respond within the deadline, fails the verifications under Articles 8.2 to 8.4, or for any reason cannot be confirmed, the Organiser may award the Voucher to the next Reserve Winner in ranking order.

**8.7.** The Organiser shall not be liable for unsuccessful delivery of notifications due to incorrectly provided contact details, email mailbox settings (e.g., spam/junk filters), or the Applicant's unavailability.

## **Article 9 — Prize**

**9.1.** One (1) first-place prize is awarded in the Competition: a **Voucher** with a total value of **EUR 3,000.00** for accommodation bookings via the Adriatic.hr platform.

**9.2.** The Voucher:

- a) cannot be exchanged for cash and no cash alternative will be offered;
- b) is non-transferable and may be used only by the Winner;
- c) may be used for **one booking of one accommodation unit**;
- d) may be redeemed for a stay taking place between **1 June 2026** and **31 December 2026**, subject to availability, and in accordance with the Catalogue rules and pre-agreed dates;
- e) applies exclusively to accommodation costs and does not include travel, insurance, visas, food, local transport, tourist taxes/fees, deposits, or any other costs;
- f) may be used up to the Voucher value; if the total booking price exceeds the Voucher value, the Winner pays the difference.

## **Article 10 - Booking and Redemption Rules**

**10.1.** The Winner must select accommodation from the Catalogue and confirm the stay dates and booking details with the Organiser no later than **31 May 2026 at 23:59**, Zagreb Time.

**10.2.** All bookings depend on:

- a) accommodation availability; and
- b) Catalogue rules and booking terms, including (without limitation) minimum stay requirements, arrival/departure days, house rules, cancellation/amendment policies, and mandatory fees shown during booking.

The Winner acknowledges that Adriatic.hr acts as an intermediary platform and that

accommodation providers may apply their own house rules and policies, to the extent disclosed during the booking process.

**10.3.** The Organiser may request up to three (3) alternative date ranges from the Winner to facilitate availability matching.

**10.4.** If the total booking amount exceeds the Voucher value (EUR 3,000.00), the Winner may pay the difference using available payment methods. If the Winner does not wish to pay the difference, the booking must be adjusted to the Voucher value.

**10.5.** If the total booking amount is lower than the Voucher value (EUR 3,000.00), the unused amount is forfeited and cannot be transferred, paid out, or used for another booking.

## **Article 11 - Date Changes and Cancellation**

**11.1.** Once the Winner and the Organiser agree and confirm the stay dates and booking terms, changes to the dates and/or booking terms are not possible.

**11.2.** If the confirmed booking is not realised for any reason (including cancellation by the Winner or inability to complete the stay due to the Winner's actions), the Voucher is forfeited and cannot be reused, transferred, or exchanged for cash.

**11.3.** The relevant accommodation provider rules and booking terms shown during the booking process also apply to cancellations and non-realisation of the booking, to the extent applicable.

## **Article 12 - Accommodation Rules, Conduct, and Damage**

**12.1.** The Winner must comply with all rules of the selected accommodation, including house rules, maximum occupancy, check-in/check-out procedures, and all reasonable requirements of the accommodation provider disclosed during the booking process or upon arrival.

**12.2.** The Voucher covers accommodation costs only (as stated in Article 9). Any additional costs related to the stay—such as deposits, penalties, extra services, tourist taxes (if applicable), or other fees not included in the booking price and not covered by the Voucher—are borne by the Winner unless expressly stated otherwise.

**12.3.** The Winner bears full responsibility for any damage caused by the Winner or persons staying with the Winner (including companions/guests) to the accommodation or property, as well as any related claims by the accommodation provider. The Organiser may assist in communication but assumes no liability for such damage or claims.

**12.4.** If the accommodation provider requires a deposit, payment guarantee, or other security, the Winner must provide it in accordance with the provider's rules. Failure to do

so may result in inability to complete the stay and may be considered non-use of the Voucher.

### **Article 13 - Public Announcements and Promotional Use**

**13.1.** Participation in the Competition does not require giving consent for promotional use of the Video Submission or other personal elements (name, voice, image/likeness). Refusal to give such consent does not affect the validity of the application.

**13.2.** After the Competition ends and the Prize is awarded, the Organiser may publish information that the Competition has been conducted and that the Prize has been awarded. The Organiser does not publish the Winner's identity, video, or photograph without the Winner's consent.

**13.3.** The Organiser may request and use for promotional purposes:

- a) the Winner's Video Submission and/or
  - b) elements of the Winner's identity (full name, voice, image and/or likeness) and/or
  - c) additional photo/video materials voluntarily provided by the Winner during Prize redemption (e.g., during the stay),
- only if the Winner provides consent via a Google Form.

**13.4.** Within the scope of the consent under Article 13.3, the Organiser may, to a reasonable extent, make technical and editorial adjustments to the materials (e.g., shorten, cut, combine clips, add subtitles, adjust format and resolution), provided that the meaning of the Winner's statements is not changed in a misleading manner.

**13.5.** Consent under this Article may be withdrawn at any time for future publications by sending a request to the Organiser using the contact listed on the Landing Page. Withdrawal does not affect the lawfulness of any use that occurred prior to withdrawal, and the Organiser will, within a reasonable period, cease new publications.

### **Article 14 - Personal Data Protection (GDPR)**

**14.1.** The Organiser processes Applicants' personal data for the purpose of conducting the Competition, including receiving and administering applications, scoring video submissions, contacting Applicants, verifying eligibility requirements and the credibility of statements made in the Video Submission (including verifying student status and, where applicable, verifying statements using requested documentation), and awarding and redeeming the Voucher.

**14.2.** The Organiser may request that Finalists and/or the provisional Winner submit:

- a) Proof of Student Status; and/or
- b) other documentation that may reasonably substantiate statements made in the Video Submission.

Applicants are encouraged to redact or remove any personal data that is not necessary, in accordance with these Terms & Conditions and the Competition Privacy Notice.

**14.3.** Evidence and documentation under Article 14.2 are collected exclusively upon the Organiser's request and are deleted no later than **30 days after the announcement of the Competition results**, unless longer retention is necessary to comply with legal obligations or to establish, exercise, or defend legal claims (in which case they will be retained to the minimum extent necessary).

**14.4.** Consent for direct marketing, if offered, is optional and not a condition of participation. Refusal to give or withdrawal of marketing consent does not affect the validity of the application or scoring.

**14.5.** Additional information (identity and contact details of the controller, legal bases, recipients/processors, retention periods, potential transfers outside the EU/EEA, data subject rights, and how to exercise them) is available in the Competition Privacy Notice published on the Landing Page.

## **Article 15 - Applicant Representations and Warranties**

**15.1.** By submitting an application, the Applicant represents and warrants that all provided data, statements, and materials are true, accurate, and complete and have been submitted in good faith.

**15.2.** The Applicant represents and warrants that the submitted video is the Applicant's original content, or that the Applicant has all necessary rights and permissions to use all elements (e.g., music, images, clips), and that the submitted content does not infringe third-party rights.

**15.3.** If third parties appear in the video, the Applicant warrants that they have obtained the third parties' consent for such appearance and for submission of the video to the Organiser for the purposes of conducting the Competition.

**15.4.** Providing false or misleading information or submitting forged materials may result in disqualification.

## **Article 16 - Disqualification**

**16.1.** The Organiser may disqualify an Applicant if the Applicant:

- A. does not meet the eligibility requirements set out in these Terms & Conditions;
- B. submits false, misleading, or forged data or materials, including false or misleading statements in the Video Submission;
- C. submits a Video Submission that is not in English or does not comply with the permitted duration (shorter than 1 minute or longer than 3 minutes);
- D. submits a Video Submission that the Organiser and/or jury cannot access in accordance with Article 4.3 (e.g., the link requires access/login, is invalid, or the video has been removed/set to private);
- E. fails to provide requested evidence and/or clarifications within the reasonable deadline under Article 3.3 and/or Articles 8.3–8.4, including Proof of Student

Status and/or documentation reasonably substantiating statements made in the Video Submission;

- F. violates these Terms & Conditions or Competition procedures;
- G. attempts to improperly influence the evaluation process or disrupts the Competition;
- H. submits unlawful, discriminatory, hateful, or grossly offensive content.

**16.2.** Disqualification is possible at any stage of the Competition, including after the publication of results, if grounds for disqualification are subsequently established.

## **Article 17 - Liability and Limitations**

**17.1.** The Organiser shall not be liable for technical difficulties (e.g., interruption of internet connection, platform outages, faulty uploads) that prevent timely application submission or access to the application form, where such difficulties are beyond the Organiser's reasonable control.

**17.2.** The Organiser does not guarantee availability of any specific accommodation; bookings are subject to availability and Catalogue rules and the accommodation provider's rules disclosed during the booking process.

**17.3.** The Winner bears all costs not expressly covered by the Voucher, as well as any personal tax obligations related to the prize, if any.

**17.4.** To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Organiser shall not be liable for indirect or consequential damages. The Organiser's liability for damages in connection with the Competition is limited to cases of intent and gross negligence, unless such exclusion or limitation of liability is prohibited by law.

## **Article 18 - Amendments to the Terms & Conditions and Termination of the Competition**

**18.1.** The Organiser may amend these Terms & Conditions only for justified reasons (e.g., compliance with regulations, prevention of abuse, correction of technical errors), provided that amendments do not unfairly affect Applicants who have already submitted an application.

**18.2.** All amendments will be published on the Landing Page and will apply from the date of publication. If amendments materially affect Applicants' rights or obligations, the Organiser will, where reasonably possible, also publish a clear notice summarising the changes.

**18.3.** The Organiser may terminate the Competition by publishing a notice on the Landing Page.

## **Article 19 - Governing Law and Jurisdiction**

**19.1.** These Terms & Conditions are governed by the laws of the Republic of Croatia.

**19.2.** The court in Split, Republic of Croatia, shall have jurisdiction over disputes arising out of or in connection with the Competition.

**Article 20 - Contact**

**20.1.** For questions related to the Competition, Applicants may contact:  
**excellence.award@adriatic.hr**

**20.2.** For privacy/GDPR requests, Applicants may contact: **privacy@adriatic.hr**