

## Journalism

The International Youth Olympiad in Journalism offers a great opportunity for students in the senior grades of secondary school to try their hand at this long-standing profession, which is currently undergoing significant renewal as new media technologies emerge.

Graduates of HSE's undergraduate programme in Journalism are able to work in any type of mass media, as well as various related fields. Instruction is not only focused on mastering the latest technologies and methods of working with journalistic materials, but also on developing one's whole set of so-called soft skills, i.e., skills for individual and teamwork in regards to complex projects. These skills are acquired by taking part in project activities, and during work placements with real editorial teams.

The Olympiad's tasks help us assess your level of motivation for creative journalistic work and your creative approach to formulating interview questions (a keystone of journalistic work), as well as your understanding of the key concepts in contemporary journalism.

The International Youth Olympiad in Journalism will be organized for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>-grade students. Participants who are 1<sup>st</sup>-tier (first-class diploma) competition winners will get an opportunity to take part in the undergraduate programme in Journalism at HSE (taught in Russian) without needing to pass the entrance examinations, provided that they also take part in the Olympiad competition in a "Foreign language" (English) and receive a grade of at **least 60 points**.

## Important dates

- **August 10, 2018, 4.00pm (Moscow time)** – the first webinar (in Russian), where information about the forthcoming round of the Olympiad competition will be provided ([see the record](#));
- **August 10** – registration campaign begins;
- **September 21, 4.00pm (Moscow time)** – the second webinar (in Russian) will be held, which will explain how to prepare for the competition properly and cover the proposed topics in the essay. One of the provisional topics will be discussed as an example;
- **October 14** – close of registration of Olympiad participants;
- **October 19, 4.00pm (Moscow times)** – the final webinar will be held, devoted to an analysis of another case, as well as answers to questions from prospective participants in the competition;
- **October 24, 2.00pm (Moscow time)** – start of the Olympiad competition in Journalism. The committee will accept papers prepared according to the established technical requirements on this day. Participants will be given 240 minutes to prepare their assignments. Please submit the completed tasks by e-mail to [journom2018@hse.ru](mailto:journom2018@hse.ru). Papers will be accepted by the committee until 6.05pm. A paper shall be deemed submitted if you have received an automated acknowledgement of receipt
- **November 10** – review of submitted papers will be completed;
- **November 15** – announcement of results.

## **Tasks and requirements**

### **Task 1 – Write a short essay (up to 1 page) based on the photograph presented (maximum grade - 50 points)**

The jury will evaluate your unique approach to the essay's composition, the originality of your opinion on the given topic, and your ability to structure a short essay logically, including its title, subtitle, lead and ending, as well as your ability to write clearly and literacy level. Please avoid general words, complex sentences, superfluous epithets, excessive enthusiasm and commonplace expressions, such as "let's wait and see".

### **Task 2 - Formulate interview questions (maximum grade - 30 points)**

The questions should be diverse, concise and open (not Yes / No type questions) and, possibly, cover the topic precisely in regards to the person being interviewed. Please avoid lengthy arguments and inaccurate phrasing, as well as commonplace questions, such as "how did you start your career" or "what is your favourite book"?

### **Task 3 - Provide your own definition of a term related to the field of journalism. (maximum grade - 20 points)**

Your definition of the journalistic term must be original. Try to prepare a mini-explainer and describe this complex concept to the average person. Please refrain from citations from one reference book, otherwise the jury will consider your definition as plagiarism. Use simple words, which would be clear even to a child. Pay attention to discrepancies in the definitions provided by different reference books and dictionaries. Also, you may want to provide a short example to illustrate your explanation.

## **Technical requirements**

You may prepare your paper using any text editor on your PC and submit it to the competition in PDF. The length of your paper can be up to 5,000 characters (with spaces).

Please use the Times New Roman Cyrillic font; 12 font size; with 1.5 spacing.

Left margin - 3 cm.; right margin - 1.5 cm; up and bottom margins - 1 cm.