

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

OPEN WINDOW has a maximum of 4 x 50% scholarships to award, which will cover 50% of the course fees per year for the full three-year degree

First year:	50% discount on first year tuition fee (excl. Registration fee)
Second year:	50% discount on 2nd year tuition fee (excl. Registration fee)
Third year:	50% discount on 3rd year tuition fee (excl. Registration fee)

There is a maximum of one scholarship awarded for each of the four specialisation streams at Open Window:

- + **Animation Arts**
- + **Creative Technologies**
- + **Film Arts**
- + **Visual Communication**

**Ts & Cs apply*

ABOUT THE COMPETITION THEME

The Open Window is looking for a creative young leader in Visual Storytelling. Visual Storytelling is a skill that all four schools at The Open Window emphasise - and we want the creative leader to demonstrate their visual storytelling skills by responding to the theme: **"Only you can tell!"**

You are encouraged to share a glimpse into what you imagine is most intriguing about a story / short narrative. You could develop a story, and outline the elements in a submission. You could harness your imagination and reveal the true potential of storytelling through the power of imagination and creativity.

In other words, we want you to reveal the true power of storytelling through your submission.

Some tips to keep in mind:

- + Use your creative strengths to your advantage (What is your 'creative superpower'? What format are you most comfortable to use? What will give you a unique edge in your submission?)
- + Go beyond single medium use, if you can (take photos, make short films, draw comics, etc. - but utilise the story / short narrative theme to your advantage in showcasing a full range of skills).
- + Show your ability to be experimental and playful in your response.



Rules to continue on the scholarship programme for second and third year:

- + Students must complete 120 credits per year.
- + Going into 2nd and 3 year: students must achieve a minimum of 65% average across all subjects to maintain the scholarship package.

Please note that OW reserves the right to reduce the number of scholarships should the quality of entry not be up to standard. All entrants are subject to the rules of the competition. Admission to OW programmes will be based on our standard admission requirements per programme. The scholarship will only be viable for candidates that meet Degree admission requirements.

WHAT TO ENTER

**We want you to create a series of 4 images or frames inspired by the theme:
"Only you can tell!"**

You can use any format, any approach, or any visual medium - as long as you can submit a story of your own in response to **"Only you can tell!"**

Think of stop motion, comics, photographs, typography, sound*, animation*, 3D objects, digital designs/illustrations, textiles, ceramics, film, etc. (But you are not limited to these approaches.)*

**Please note that time-based entries should not exceed 30 seconds. Films or animations do not need to have 4 scene changes, but rather 4 events/moments that are linked by cause and effect.*

The following needs to be submitted in order to be considered for the scholarship:

1. Main Project (a series of 4 images / frames inspired by the theme)
2. Project title (must be relevant to the theme)
3. Rationale (200 words maximum, indicating how the project responds to the theme **"Only you can tell!"**)
4. Project planning document (We are curious to see how you arrived at your final outcome, therefore you are required to submit your planning and revision process notes, which may include thumbnail sketches, layout considerations, behind the scenes images/videos, venue scouting images, or anything else that documents the planning and revision process)
5. All applicants need to indicate their first and second choice in specialisation (selected from the 14 areas of specialisation OW has on offer) - these choices will be used to align you to the Streams at OW, of which only one scholarship can be awarded per stream).



SUBMISSION FORMATS ACCEPTED: MOV, MP4, JPG, PNG, PDF)
Please ensure that your file size for entry does not exceed 200 MB.

****Please note: Open files or links to external videos (Youtube/Vimeo) will not be considered.**

All artworks submitted must be the entrant's **own original** work and must have been created in 2025, specifically for this competition and in direct response to the provided brief). **Existing projects or school portfolios cannot be used.**



HOW TO ENTER

- + Schedule an appointment with one of our **Student Advisors** to receive provisional acceptance for the 2026 intake at Open Window and confirm that you meet the admission requirements.
- + Only candidates with provisional acceptance should enter the Scholarship competition via the following link: <https://forms.gle/YeHNpy9mo1gRtYpW6>
- + Upload your completed Visual Narrative in one of the following formats: MOV, MP4, JPG, PNG, or PDF. Ensure your file size does not exceed 200 MB. (***Please note that open files or links to external videos (e.g., YouTube, Vimeo) will not be accepted.*)
- + Shortlisted candidates will be notified by mid-January. They must then provide their acceptance letter from the **Open Window Portal** to the Student Advisors.
- + All shortlisted applicants must have applied to study at The Open Window for 2026 by creating a profile on the Open Window Portal. If you qualify, you will be able to download your acceptance letter from the portal.

JUDGING THE COMPETITION

All entries are subject to a selection process. Works will be judged based on the following 6 criteria:

- + **Concept** (does the overall concept convey a response to the theme **"Only you can tell"**)
- + **Story** (does the narrative convey a sequential progression?)
- + **Creative use of medium** (Is there evidence of ingenuity and/or innovative use of material?)
- + **Quality of craftsmanship** (Does the entry convey technique, demonstrate skills, illustrate basic software knowledge, etc.?)
- + **Effort** (Does the effort of the project match the reward? Was there effort in the execution? Was the project specifically developed for this brief, or was it a highschool project submitted for this purpose?)
- + **Presentation** (Does the entry convey care for the final presentation, is there a professionalism to the finish?)

Scholarships will be awarded to individuals that show exceptional artistic talent, creativity thinking, and creative potential.

The OW Academic Committee will form the judging panel. OW is not obligated to award all bursaries. The OW Academic Committee and the institution will not engage in providing feedback on entries submitted or scholarships awarded/not awarded.

COMPETITION RULES



- 01** Entry is only accessible through the link provided on official Open Window channels. Emailed entries, or entries made utilising any platform other than the official channels indicated above, will not be considered.
- 02** Only applicants who have already been accepted into the degree programme and meet the entry requirements will be considered.
- 03** Shortlisted candidates must create an account for themselves on our portal and receive an Acceptance letter.
<https://students.openwindow.co.za/open-window-welcome-2025-students-pre-registration/>
- 04** Applicants must be able to take up the scholarship by the start of the academic year in February of 2026.
- 05** The scholarship will be awarded to students registering for Degree studies at the Open Window.
- 06** To ensure students are able to complete their academic journey with us, the Debtors Manager will complete a financial consultation with prospective students before registration. While 50% of the course fees are awarded as the bursary, annual registration fees still apply. Bursary students are required to be equipped with their own devices, as per the specs indicated to all prospective students of OW.
- 07** Entries must be submitted on or before **30 December 2025**. The platform will be closed following this date, and therefore, artworks submitted after this deadline will not be considered.
- 08** All artworks submitted must be the entrant's own original work and must have been created in 2025, specifically for this competition (in direct response to the provided brief). **Existing projects or school portfolios cannot be used.** Previous submissions on the same theme will not be considered.
- 09** Eligible entrants to this competition must have matriculated in 2024 or 2025, with the work for this competition having been completed in 2025.
- 10** Entrants must include planning and evidence of work in progress as part of the final submission, to prove that the submission is their own work and to show their creative thought process. This evidence can include sketches, notes, or visual planning of any kind. This will serve as evidence that the project has been from the idea stage all the way to the final submission and will serve as to help prove that no plagiarism has been committed or AI platforms have been used without clear acknowledgement.

- 11** Plagiarised, AI-generated, illegible, incomplete, defaced or corrupt entries will not be considered.
- 12** In order to be considered for a scholarship, all components must be entered (partly submitted components will not be considered, and final submissions without the required supporting documentation will not be considered).
- 13** Once a submission is received, you will not be able to modify it whatsoever.
- 14** Only one submission per applicant will be considered. Should an applicant submit multiple submissions, the first submission will be considered.
- 15** The Open Window has the right to report any artworks that condone hate speech and propaganda of violence against race, creed, gender or sexual orientation.
- 16** Artworks may be published on The Open Window's website or social media platforms, as well as included on certain virtual exhibitions.
- 17** No royalties will be paid for work submitted for competition and published on The Open Window's website or social media platforms.
- 18** The Open Window's decision on all matters pertaining to the competition is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 19** It is at the sole discretion of The Open Window to award scholarships.
- 20** The scholarship shortlist will be published on The Open Window's website by no later than mid-January of 2026, with winners announced by the first week of February 2026.
- 21** Shortlisted entrants for scholarships may be required to be available for Skype/Google Meet/Zoom interviews between the dates indicated for closure of the competition and awarding of the scholarships.
- 22** Bursaries may NOT be exchanged for cash, are not transferable and are valid for the year 2026 only (towards the pursuit of full-time studies), subject to extension for 2027 and 2028.
- 23** Students on the bursary programme are required to complete 120 credits per year.
- 24** Going into the second and third years, students must achieve a minimum of 65% average across all subjects to maintain the scholarship package.
- 25** While OW has 4 scholarships to award, please note that OW reserves the right to reduce the number of scholarships should the quality of entry not be up to standard.
- 26** All entrants are subject to the rules of the competition.

