TEDxNewnham - Application details and guidance for performers

# ‘Embracing Challenge’ - Saturday, February 17 2018

[TED](https://www.ted.com/) stands for Technology, Entertainment and Design, and is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading great ideas, usually (but not always) in the form of short, powerful, but informal talks.

TEDxNewnham will consist of a diverse series of presentations given in front of an audience of up to 100 people in College. The presentations will be filmed and live streamed to alumnae events, and shared worldwide to stimulate ongoing discussions.

Applications to perform at TEDxNewnham are invited at this stage from:

* all members of the Roll
* current undergraduate and graduate students

# Theme

The theme for the event is 'Embracing Challenge' which you can interpret in any way you choose, either in subject matter or presentation. You could do anything from a talk, a song, a dance, a demonstration, experiment, artwork, or an account of a life-changing experience - anything on the theme which spreads an idea that is making, or could make, a difference and which you think would inspire your audience. The choice is yours.

Your final presentation should last between 10 and 18 minutes and must be capable of being staged reasonably easily on a straightforward platform in the Lucia Windsor room at Newnham College.

# How to enter

Please send us all of the following:

* your name, age, matriculation date, the subject you studied at Newnham, your current occupation, your email and postal addresses
* a 300-word written outline of your idea (in English)
* an indication of the format of your presentation and how long you expect it to last
* a one-minute video clip of you giving your answers to the following three questions (sophisticated filming is not necessary: a video from a mobile phone is fine):

a. What has Newnham given you?

b. What are you doing now?

c. What would you like to give back to future generations of Newnham women?

A selection of the video clips will be added to a ‘[Wall of Women](http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/wall-of-women/)’ video montage on the College’s website. Please view the separate ‘Filming Guidelines’ and ‘How to submit your application’ PDFs located [here](http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/alumnae/tedxnewnham/).

*Video clips are also welcomed in the same format from alumnae not wishing to enter the competition to be part of TedxNewnham.*

Please send your application by email to [TedxNewnham@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:TedxNewnham@newn.cam.ac.uk)

## The deadline for applications is Monday, September 18 2017.

Successful applicants should expect to perform on stage at the event and will be required to attend a rehearsal with professional speaker coaches at Newnham on Saturday, January 27 2018.

# Judging criteria

The criteria on which applications will be judged include;

* ability to inspire
* originality
* credibility
* diversity

Please note that under the TEDx Rules we are only able to include up to 10 presentations on the TEDxNewnham day. Don’t let this restriction deter you from applying as we are looking for as wide a range of inspiring presentations as possible, to stimulate ongoing discussion.

We also hope to select presentations from the College Fellowship and the Newnham community and will also screen relevant and inspiring TED talks.

The judging panel will be selected from members of the Roll Committee, the Associates, the Honorary Associates, Fellows and Junior members of the College. NB we are required to have scientific presentations assessed by our experts in the relevant field before selection.

The judges' selection will be made and notified to you by **November 30 2017** and is final.

The TED organisation provides help and guidance for all TED performers in preparing for their presentations and this will be available to all the selected TEDxNewnham performers. Some initial guidance appears below.

We suggest that you also visit the [TED website](http://www.ted.com) and, if you are unfamiliar with the TED format, watch a few [TED Talks](https://www.ted.com/talks).

# TEDx Guidance

TEDx is not the place for Powerpoint presentations or scripted speeches. To help you prepare your outline you might want to consider the following five tips. These are given to all TED Conference speakers as they prepare their TED Talks:

1. Dream big. Strive to create the best presentation or performance you have ever given. Reveal something never seen before. Do something the audience will remember forever. Share an idea that could change the world.
2. Show us the real you. Share your passions, your dreams, and also your fears. Be vulnerable. Speak of failure as well as success.
3. Make the complex plain. Don't try to dazzle intellectually. Don't speak in abstractions. Explain! Give examples. Tell stories. Be specific.
4. Connect with people's emotions. Make us laugh! Make us cry!
5. Don't flaunt your ego. Don't boast. It's the surest way to switch everyone off.

Presenters at TEDx events should tell a story or share an idea. You should not use the TED stage to lecture, sell products, promote yourself or your business, or ask for funding. The content must be original and give credit where appropriate. You must not plagiarise or impersonate other persons, living or dead.

All TEDx presentations represent the opinion of the presenter, not of Newnham, the Roll, TED or TEDx, but the organisers of TEDxNewnham feel a responsibility not to provide a platform for misleading information so it is important that information is accurate - and, specifically, any scientific content will be assessed by experts in the field in advance of a presentation being selected.

The TEDx Licence prohibits payment to presenters.

Each presenter must sign a release form to give Newnham College and TED the right to record, stream, film and photograph the presentation and to distribute, broadcast, edit, translate or otherwise disseminate it and the original submission clip. This will be provided separately to those selected to take part in TEDxNewnham and/or to appear in the video montage.

Applications from outside the Newnham College community will be invited in the autumn.

Please email [TedxNewnham@newn.cam.ac.uk](mailto:TedxNewnham@newn.cam.ac.uk) if you have any questions.