

NEWNHAM COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9DF

The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize 2018-19

The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize is open to all **girls currently in Year 12** (Lower Sixth) at a UK school. It is designed to give students the opportunity to think and write about philosophy and philosophical matters in the broadest sense, while developing their independent study and writing skills. Through exposure to the type of work they might be expected to do at Cambridge, we hope highflying students will be encouraged to consider applying to the University – and hopefully to Newnham, where women’s history and educational excellence are, of course, central.

This prize may be of particular interest to those either currently studying, or considering studying, Philosophy, but we welcome entries from interested students studying any combination of subjects. Entrants are invited to submit a response to the question overleaf, which should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words (including footnotes and captions). All sources must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, and a bibliography – including websites consulted – should be attached (though excluded from the word count). Up to **five** entries may be submitted per school.

Each of the Newnham Essay Prizes has a first prize of £400, a second prize of £200, and third prize of £100.

Good essays will present a clear argument using specific examples, but beyond this many different approaches are welcome.

Entrants should upload their submissions to the webform, found here:
<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/newnham-essay-prizes/>

The **cover sheet** should also be uploaded to this webform. Please ensure that a school/college representative has completed the appropriate section. Entries will not be valid without this information.

The deadline for receipt is **12pm on Friday 8th March 2019**. For any queries not answered here, please contact Sophie Parry (Schools Liaison & Outreach Officer) by email at slo@newn.cam.ac.uk or by telephone on 01223 330471.

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The Newnham Philosophy Essay Prize 2018-19 Question

On August 4th 1914, Millicent Garrett Fawcett chaired a meeting about the recent declaration of war, where she said: '*A way must be found out of the tangle... In the first place [the government] should try and avoid bitterness of national feeling.*'

Is patriotism a virtue, or a vice? Should 'national feeling' be encouraged or discouraged by nation states today?

Millicent Garrett Fawcett was one of the founders of Newnham College, and played a leading role in the campaign for women's suffrage.

For helpful philosophical background and further reading, see Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <https://plato.stanford.edu/> (e.g. entries on Patriotism, Nationalism, Loyalty).