

Call for submissions: Emerging Perspectives Short Essay Competition 2025

We invite young researchers and writers from and based in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East to participate in our annual short essay competition. The five winning essays will be published in the [Mixed Migration Centre \(MMC\)'s](#) flagship publication the [Mixed Migration Review \(MMR\)](#). Each winner will receive a prize of **USD 1,000 each**.

Who can apply

Migration writers and researchers **30 years of age or younger** who are from and based in **Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East**.

Theme: migration and geopolitical turmoil

This year, we seek essays on **how the current geopolitical turmoil and shifting world order are shaping migration**. This could include **your perspectives** on:

- Displacement and migration due to conflicts influenced by foreign intervention or shifting alliances
- Shifting asylum and resettlement policies, in particular where refugee status or resettlement has been impacted due to changing policies (e.g., US asylum restrictions, EU migration pact)
- The impact of strict border policies, deportations, or forced returns
- Economic hardships caused by cuts to development and humanitarian aid

What we are looking for

Essays should provide **original insights** and explore less-discussed aspects of migration in these contexts. Essay submissions can take the form of:

- **Opinion pieces**
- **Personal narratives**
- **Reportage-style articles**

We are **not** looking for academic or highly conceptual essays, but rather compelling storytelling and fresh perspectives. We invite you to come up with your own original ideas for **better migration policies**.

How to apply

Submit a short abstract (maximum 200 words) outlining your intended essay [via this form](#) by May 5, 2025. Each applicant may submit only one abstract, though co-authored essays are allowed (however, the prize money is awarded per essay and can only be transferred to one person).

AI-generated abstracts and essays will automatically be disqualified.



What happens next?

- The **most compelling abstracts** will be selected by our review team.
- Selected applicants will be **invited to submit a full essay** (1,500 words max). Invitations will be sent by **May 23, 2025**.
- **Final essays must be submitted by June 23, 2025**. Submissions exceeding 1,500 words will be disqualified.
- **Winners will be announced by July 14, 2025**.

Prizes and publications

The five selected essays will be published in the MMR 2025, and each winner will receive USD 1,000. No prize is awarded for abstract selection; only the final winning essays receive prizes.

We look forward to your submission!

Any questions? Please contact jennifer.vallentine@mixedmigration.org