



Ellen Craft Essay Prize

The Scottish Association for the Study of America

The Ellen Craft Essay Prize is awarded for an outstanding piece of work on the perspectives and experiences of minoritised populations in the Americas.

The Scottish Association for the Study of America (SASA) is thrilled to announce that this year's Ellen Craft Essay Prize is now open for submissions. The Ellen Craft Essay Prize is intended to help to promote, encourage and share the study of marginalised voices in American Studies at the postgraduate and early career levels. It hopes, in a small way, to answer some of the current issues facing American Studies scholarship within the UK both in subject matter and participants.

The Ellen Craft Essay Prize is awarded to the best essay by a postgraduate student or early-career researcher on a topic relating to the study of minoritised populations within the Americas. SASA recognises a broad definition of the Americas and includes anything situated within North, South or Latin America, at any point in history. **The work should be 3,000-4,000 words in length, including footnotes (excluding a bibliography).** The work may be part of ongoing research projects or an original piece, but must not have been submitted to other essay prize competitions. Past entrants are welcome to submit again. Previous first-place winners are not eligible to submit again. A panel of the SASA committee and external reviewers will judge all submissions. SASA will award the winning author a prize of £100 and an invitation to our annual conference on 7 March, 2026.

The namesake of this prize, Ellen Craft, was an activist and freedom fighter who fled enslavement in 1848. Dressed as a white, male enslaver, Ellen, along with her husband dressed as an enslaved person, escaped across 1000 miles of slave states to freedom. Following their escape, the couple travelled to the UK, where they gave a series of lectures on their lives as enslaved people and their journey. The creators of this award found Ellen Craft a fitting namesake. Her often forgotten story is emblematic of the type of scholarship that this award hopes to promote.

ELIGIBILITY AND SUBMISSION

This essay prize competition is open to current postgraduate students based at UK universities and academic institutions and early career researchers residing in the UK who are within the first five years since finishing their doctorate. Submissions should be sent by email to the SASA committee: sasaessayprize@gmail.com. **Please also submit either a brief academic CV or a brief bio demonstrating your eligibility for the prize and including your full contact details.** Deadline for submission will be **Friday, 16 January 2026** and entrants will be informed in February 2026.

Ellen Craft Essay Prize Style Guide

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STYLISTIC

- Size 12, Black ink, in a readable font.
- 1.5 or double-spaced.
- 3,000-4,000 words – this includes footnotes but does not include your bibliography.
- Do not include your name on the essay.
- Ensure that all of your pages are numbered.
- Entries must include citations and a bibliography. Any style is acceptable, as long as your referencing system is consistent.

ELIGIBILITY

- This essay prize competition is open to current postgraduate students (Masters and PhD) based at a UK university or academic institution and early career researchers who reside in the UK.
- Submissions must be in English.
- Previous winners of this particular prize are not eligible to submit again. Honourable mentions may resubmit a revised or different piece of work.

SUBMISSION

- Please submit your piece to sasaessayprize@gmail.com by **Friday, 16 January 2026** as a PDF file.
- As a separate PDF please also attach either a brief academic CV or a brief bio that includes full contact details.