

2026/27 STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

PRETTY UGLY



THE BRIEF

Beauty isn't always obvious. Sometimes, it reveals itself in the most unexpected places.

We're asking you to explore the idea that "ugly" is often just a matter of perspective. Under the right conditions, the overlooked can become extraordinary. A rough texture, an unusual face, a forgotten space, each holds the potential to be something special.

The "ugliest" subject can still carry charm. A derelict building might glow when caught in the perfect light. Even perceived imperfections, scars, wear, and age, can tell powerful stories of resilience and character.

We challenge you to look differently at the world around you. Pay attention to everyday details, question first impressions, and dig beneath the surface. Use your camera to capture an image that expresses your own interpretation of pretty ugly.

Photograph using ILFORD Photo or Kentmere black and white film and print the image yourself in the darkroom on either ILFORD Photo or Kentmere traditional black and white photographic papers.

Your image should be well framed and shot then printed with careful attention to detail, including dust removal and borders.

MINIMUM PRINT SIZE 8 X 10"

**** PLEASE NOTE ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL ENTRY LABEL STUCK TO THE REVERSE OF THE IMAGE ****

FIRST PRIZE

A certificate and the title of ILFORD Photo UK Student Photographer of the year 2026/2027.

Winning image professionally printed and mounted by HARMAN Lab. (harmanlab.com).

An 35mm film camera donated by Vintage Camera Hut.

£200* of products of their choice from ilfordphoto.com.

* Or equivalent in local currency

RUNNER UP

A certificate and the title of ILFORD Photo UK Runner Up Student Photographer of the year 2026/2027

A 35mm film camera donated by UsedPhotoPro

£150* of product of their choice from ilfordphoto.com