

VOICE THE FUTURE



LISTEN SPEAK
SUCCEED

ESU

ESU Public Speaking

COMPETITION

ENGLISH-
SPEAKING
UNION 

 阿思丹 | ASEEDER

Organisers

- English-Speaking Union (ESU)
- ASEEDER

ESU, established in 1918, is long governed by a Royal Charter, patronize by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. Former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh both served as president. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal now serves as President. Headquartered at Dartmouth House in London, ESU, the organiser of the world's most influential and authoritative English-speaking events, currently has branches in 54 countries, with over 1,000,000 youth engaging in ESU-organized English-speaking competitions.



VOICE THE FUTURE

Youth Public Speaking Competition

PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

ABOUT ESU

The English-Speaking Union (ESU) is renowned for organizing some of the world's most prestigious public speaking competitions. Its flagship International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) for students aged 16–20 is often regarded as the “Olympics of English public speaking,” while the ESU–Churchill Public Speaking Competition serves students across England and Wales. Building on this legacy, the ESU Youth Public Speaking Competition (YPSC) is **the ESU's first global speaking challenge** for young people aged 6–16, designed to develop confident communicators and globally minded future leaders.

In April 2025, ESU and ASEEDER formed a strategic partnership to launch YPSC, bringing the spirit and standards of IPSC to a younger generation. Open to participants aged 6–16 worldwide, YPSC provides an international platform for public speaking, cultural exchange, and leadership development. In 2026, the ESU officially open the International Public Speaking Competition (IPSC) to participants from Macao, China, further expanding opportunities for young speakers to engage with the global public speaking community.

WELCOME LETTER

Dear Participants:

Welcome to the inaugural YPSC Competition – it is wonderful that you are taking part!

The English-Speaking Union was founded in London in 1918 just after the First World War. The founders believed that if you could bring people together and helping them communicate constructively, then future conflicts would be avoided. Today, over a hundred years later, the ESU's mission has adapted to focus on young people – we aim to provide high quality oracy (public speaking, debate and performance) opportunities to young people around the world through which they can develop their oracy & leadership skills, while connecting with others across regional, generational and national divides so that they can become global citizens and the leaders of tomorrow.

This year, we are excited to be partnering with ASEEDER to reach young people like you and give you the opportunity to participate in our signature Public Speaking Competition.

Through this competition you'll develop the ability to speak up and speak out, express yourself, work as a team, listen effectively and have fun along the way. The skills and experiences you will gain through this process will set you up for life. I encourage you to take this opportunity and learn as much as you can from it – both the core skills of speaking and listening, but also the important leadership skills you'll naturally develop such as empathy, resilience, professionalism, responsibility and teamwork.

I look forward to hearing all about your successes and hopefully meeting some of you in London or in China soon. Good luck!

Louisa Mundachali Searle
Director of Education, ESU



Organiser Introduction

Youth Public Speaking Competition



YOUTH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

ABOUT ESU

The English-Speaking Union (ESU), established in 1918 and founded by Sir Evelyn Wrench, is one of the United Kingdom's oldest educational charities. ESU was founded in the belief that more effective communication between nations would lead to greater global understanding and, ultimately, world peace. ESU is long governed by a Royal Charter, patronize by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. Former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh both served as president. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal now serves as President.

The ESU is headquartered at Dartmouth House in London and currently has 54 branches around the world, reaching over one million young people globally. As a global educational network, the ESU is dedicated to fostering intercultural dialogue through English, facilitating communication and collaboration across countries and regions, helping young people to express themselves, listen to diverse perspectives, engage with the world, and live their lives to the fullest.

ESU International Partners



To give young people the speaking and listening skills and cultural understanding they need to thrive.

ESU's MISSION

“ LISTEN SPEAK SUCCEED ”



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Youth Public Speaking Competition



Sir Winston Churchill

Chairman of the English-Speaking Union
1921-1925

If you can speak in this country, you can do anything.



Queen Elizabeth II

1957

Queen Elizabeth II awards the English-Speaking Union a royal charter.

ESU Competitions

• ESU-CHURCHILL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The prestigious ESU-Churchill Public Speaking Competition, sponsored by the International Churchill Society, is the largest such public speaking contest in England and Wales, **reaching over tens of thousands of students with around 400 schools.**



• SCHOOLS' MACE

The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is **the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England and Wales**, involving **over 300 schools each year**. Teams typically hail from the UK's **elite secondary schools (including Eton College, Westminster Academy, and St Paul's Girls' School, etc.)**. Many past participants have gone on to become politicians, lawyers, media professionals, and academic leaders.

DOROTHY BYRNE

President of Murray Edward College, Cambridge

Former Head of News and Current Affairs at Channel 4

Winner of the ESU Schools' Mace debating competition 1970



Schools' Mace debating contest taught me that if you fight and you work, you can win.

• PERFORMING SHAKESPEARE

Performing Shakespeare is a nationwide drama competition hosted by ESU and is one of the UK's most influential youth drama education programs. It not only brings to life the Shakespeare study requirement in the curriculum, but also enables students to develop their creativity, confidence, and ability. It also allows finalists to perform at Shakespeare's Globe.



YPSC

Why YPSC

ESU Youth Public Speaking Competition

01

From Preliminary Round to Global Finals

Step-by-Step to Master Public Speaking Skills

Preliminary Round - Online

Knock on the door of language and discover your voice

Asian Round

Foster independent thought and deepen the ability to express complex ideas

Global Finals

Elevate intercultural fluency and nurture visionary leadership for international impact

02

Focus on Four Key Skill Sets

Improve Oracy Skills Comprehensively

Oracy is to speaking what numeracy is to mathematics or literacy to reading and writing -- It is a developable core skill. **ESU Youth Public Speaking Competition is based on four oracy skill sets: reasoning and evidence, listening and response, expression and delivery, and organisation and prioritisation**, empowering youth to express themselves confidently and fluently and enabling them to communicate effectively across cultures.

1 In many parts of the country, over **50%** of students start school lacking vital oracy skills.

2 Young people who cannot express themselves verbally may suffer from behavioural problems, emotional and psychological difficulties, and, in some cases, may descend into criminality.

1 Spoken language plays a key role in cognitive development, helping children understand the world around them.

2 **79%** of secondary state school teachers (almost 4 in 5) think that developing their students' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills would make the students more employable.

3 Children with good communication skills are four times more likely to get five A*-Cs at GCSE.

03

Certificate of Participation & Glory Medals

Certified Excellence in Public Speaking



Certificates will be presented to all participants.

Medals will be awarded to outstanding performers.



Schools with 20 or more student participants will receive an award plaque.

04

Official Resources

Professional resources to enhance your public speaking skills



Learning Resources

Thoughtfully developed resources featuring diverse speech skills and practical tips to help students build their communication skills step by step.



Teaching Resources

A host of ice-breaking games. These fun games can be used in any classroom and are guaranteed to get everyone talking and listening to each other.



ESU Video Examples

Curated collection of example videos from past participants, offering concrete examples that inspire and demonstrate effective communication techniques.

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Youth Public Speaking Competition



The First ESU English Public Speaking Competition for Teenagers Aged 16 and Under

ESU YOUTH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

A GLOBAL GATHERING FOR YOUNG ENGLISH SPEAKERS

The **ESU Youth Public Speaking Competition** is a new international competition jointly launched by the ESU and ASEEDER for young people aged 16 and under around the world. The competition consists of three stages: the Online Preliminary Round, the Asian Round, and the Global Finals. As they progress through the stages, participants will develop confidence in expression, active listening skills, and a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives, gaining abundant opportunities to showcase their talents on an international platform. The Asian Round and the Global Finals will feature Public Speaking and Oracy Skills Workshops, led by renowned coaches and adjudicators from the ESU. These events provide participants with expert guidance and hands-on experience to further enhance their public speaking skills.

Advancement Track

01 Preliminary Round

- **Eligibility:** Students aged 6-16
- **Participation Format:** Online video submission
- **Task:** Prepared speech
- **Categories:**
- **Registration Deadline:** 6 November 2026
- **Submission Deadline:** 18:00 (Beijing Time), 9 November 2026
- **Awards:** Gold Award: Top 15%; Silver Award: Top 15.01 - 25%; Bronze Award: Top 25.01% - 50%

Category	Age	Grade
Primary School - Beginner	6-7	Grades 1-2
Primary School - Intermediate	8-10	Grades 3-4
Primary School - Advanced	11-12	Grades 5-6
Secondary School	13-16	Grades 7-10

* Please select the participation category strictly based on students' age. No cross-category participation.

* Students in the Beginner category are eligible to participate in Preliminary Round and the Asian Round, while the Global Round is exclusively open to the Intermediate and above.

PARTICIPATION PROCESS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

	Primary School - Beginner	Primary School - Intermediate	Primary School - Advanced	Secondary School
Online Submission	Each participant is required to finish their speech from conducting independent research, refining their speech draft, recording their speech video, to submitting it to a designated platform			
2025 Theme	My Favorite Chinese Traditional Festival	My Favorite Piece of Chinese Wisdom	The world needs more creative thinkers than traditional problem-solvers	"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." - John Wooden
Format	Submit a 1.5 minutes speech video online	Submit a 2-minute speech video online	Submit a 3-minute speech video online	Submit a 4-minute speech video online

*The topics listed above were the prepared speech topics for 2025. The 2026 prepared speech topics will be announced in due course.



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Youth Public Speaking Competition

02

Asian Round



The ESU Youth Public Speaking Competition is **jointly organised by the ESU, Macao Polytechnic University, and ASEEDER**. Founded in 1981, **Macao Polytechnic University** is an applied and comprehensive public institution committed to advancing English education and fostering international communication. As an organiser of English-language events in Macao, **the university has successfully hosted several prestigious competitions, and its panel of judges brings extensive experience in training and evaluation**. In this competition, Macao Polytechnic University will act as a co-organiser, providing professional venue support and delivering robust academic guidance during speech workshops and competition, ensuring participants enjoy a high-quality learning and communication experience.

- **Eligibility:** Finalists with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards in the Preliminary Round
- **Location:** Macau, China
- **Awards:** Gold Award: Top 15%; Silver Award: Top 15.01 – 25%; Bronze Award: Top 25.01% – 50%
- **Date:** January/February 2027 (Specific date TBD)
- **Highlights:** Public Speaking Masterclass, Prepared speech, Impromptu Speech

Asian Round Judge Panels



SARA M

Debating & Public Speaking Coach & Judge

- Scotland Schools Debating Team Coach
- ESU Debate Academy Coach & Judge
- ESU Schools' Mace & Public Speaking Competition Judge
- Judge, World Schools Debating Championships
- Debate Judge, Cambridge Schools



TERESE W

ESU Debate and Public Speaking Judge

- Former Teacher of the Year
- ESU Debate and Public Speaking Judge
- Mayor of London's Gold Club Award Recipient
- Leadership Consultant & Teacher Trainer qualified in: 21st Century Headship & School Mental Health Award Gold



RODRIGO S

Competitions Lead & Oracy Coach at ESU

- Former Council Candidate & Civil Servant
- Political Adviser, Local Government Association
- Participant, Stunt Performers Academy, Los Angeles
- Holder of CMI Award in Coaching & Mentoring
- Recipient of the Diana, Princess of Wales Award for Community Outreach



GAVIN I

Head of Performance & Senior Coach

- Winner, Cambridge Union Debating Prize (2003)
- Champion Debater, Cambridge Union & European Championships
- Judge, Oxford Union & European Debating Championships
- Trainer of Adult Learners in Debating, Negotiation, Public Speaking & Presenting

* The list of the judging panel members above is for reference only. The final members will maintain the same level of professionalism.



03

Global Finals



The Global Finals of YPSC will take place at Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge. Established in 1348, the college is one of Cambridge's oldest and most academically distinguished institutions, ranking as the fourth-oldest college within the university and now among its largest. With an impressive track record of academic excellence, Gonville & Caius has produced 15 Nobel laureates —surpassed only by Trinity College —underscoring its outstanding scholarly influence.

Finalists who qualify for the Global Finals will have the chance to engage in an immersive learning experience at Gonville & Caius College, soaking in the rich history and dynamic academic environment of this storied institution. They will also be invited to attend a traditional Cambridge High Table Dinner, giving them an up-close appreciation of the unique blend of British academic tradition and formal etiquette, creating an unforgettable and treasured milestone in their personal development.

- **Eligibility:** Finalists with Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards in the Asian Round
- **Category:** Primary School – Intermediate and above
- **Date:** July/August 2027 (Specific date TBD)
- **Location:** London, UK
- **Academic Session:** 5-Day Public Speaking Bootcamp, British Student Friendship Tournament
- **Non-Academic Session:** London Tour



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Youth Public Speaking Competition

Evaluation Framework



Expression and Delivery: Speak with confidence, engage the audience.



Organisation and Prioritisation: Present their reasons in a clear, well-structured manner, give priority to the main arguments.



Reasoning and Evidence: Defend statements using clear, logical reasons, and choose relevant statements to defend.



Listening and Response: Engage with the ideas of others, respond, select, and respond to the most important arguments of others with precise analysis or questioning.

* Listening and Response skill will be assessed in the Asian Round and Global Finals.

VIDEO RECORDING REQUIREMENTS

YPSC

- 1. Language:** English
- 2. Format:** Online submission
- 3. Duration:** The required duration for the speech video differs by category. Generally, the speech video should not exceed the stipulated time. It is recommended for participants to rehearse extensively before recording to ensure the final submission adheres to the specified duration requirements.
- 4. Equipment Requirements:** A high-quality recording device (e.g., a smartphone, camera, tablet, laptop, or camcorder) is necessary. The device must remain stable throughout the recording process. During the assessment, the clarity and loudness of the expression will be considered; hence, external microphones are prohibited.
- 5. Environment Requirements:** Participants must be fully visible in the frame and ensure the examination space is well-lit and clear, with a quiet and non-distracting background. Recording in a bedroom is strictly forbidden.
- 6. Dress Code:** No fixed dress code. Participants may wear any comfortable clothing that facilitates movement. For speech segments involving props, participants can choose whether to use them. If props are used, please ensure your speech will not exceed the allotted time. Using props will not earn extra points.
- 7. Recording Requirements:** The entire speech video must be recorded in a single, uninterrupted take. Once recording begins, it cannot be paused and should only be stopped after the participant has finished all speech content. The speech video must ensure the synchronization of sound and video. No editing, either before or after recording. If the organizing committee detects any editing or clipping in the video, it will be deemed a violation of exam rules, resulting in the invalidation of the speech score.
- 8. Submission Regulations:** Participants are prohibited from submitting the same video multiple times (unless specifically requested by the organizing committee, such as due to technical issues affecting playback). Participants must not share the video on social media or use it for other examination purposes.
- 9. Submission Method (To be determined):** Submit your performance video and selected script via the ASEEDER Mini Program (Registration Projects → Upload Files). Before uploading, please first send both the video file and the script document through a WeChat chat, and then select them for upload from within the Mini Program.

- Video file: MP4 or MOV format, maximum file size 500 MB
- Script document: Word or PDF format, with the title of the script clearly indicated in the document.

Fee: 360 RMB

Includes: Registration, assessment fee, certificate and medals. (Mailing charges are not included)

Registration: Scan the QR code to sign up.

* After registration, you will receive a confirmation email, which includes reference academic materials.

