

PHOTOGRAPHY

ASTRONOMY PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2026

DEADLINE

02 MAR 2026

ENTRIES CLOSED

POSTED	ENTRY FEE	ONLINE
31 Dec 2025	SEE ARTICLE DETAILS	VISIT ORGANIZER

DETAILS / KEEP FOR REFERENCE

SOURCE: GRAPHIC COMPETITIONS

Astronomy Photographer of the Year is a prestigious international astrophotography competition organised by Royal Museums Greenwich, widely regarded as one of the world's leading showcases for space and night-sky photography. The competition celebrates outstanding images of the cosmos, highlighting the beauty, scale, and scientific significance of astronomical phenomena. Each year it attracts thousands of submissions from amateur and professional astrophotographers across the globe, making it a key event in the global astronomy and photography calendar.

The competition encompasses a wide range of astrophotography categories, including deep space objects such as galaxies and nebulae, solar system subjects like the Moon and planets, and dramatic skyscapes featuring the Milky Way, eclipses, aurorae, and star trails. By encouraging both technical excellence and creative interpretation, Astronomy Photographer of the Year aims to bridge the gap between art and science, inspiring public interest in astronomy while showcasing the latest advances in imaging techniques and equipment.

Shortlisted and winning images are exhibited annually at the National Maritime Museum in London, offering photographers significant international exposure and recognition. In addition to the exhibition, the competition plays an important educational role by promoting scientific understanding of the universe and highlighting humanity's relationship with the night sky. Through its global reach, strong institutional backing, and emphasis on visual storytelling, Astronomy Photographer of the Year continues to be a benchmark competition within the astrophotography community.

The adult competition entry fee is £10 for up to ten images, while entry is free for the Young competition and certain special prize entries.

ELIGIBILITY

Open worldwide to photographers of all skill levels globally, including adults and young photographers (with a separate Young competition).

PRIZE

Prizes include the prestigious title "Astronomy Photographer of the Year" and a £10,000 overall winner cash prize, with additional awards in the adult categories (winners receiving £1,500, runners-up £500, and highly commended £250), plus opportunities for winners to have their work exhibited, receive subscriptions like BBC Sky at Night magazine, and win awards in the Young and special prize categories.