

Eligibility and judging criteria for The Sandford St Martin Awards 2015

About the awards

The Sandford St Martin Awards are the UK's most prestigious broadcast awards for radio, TV and online content that reflect religious, spiritual or ethical themes. Entries are welcome from news, current affairs, factual, arts, music, drama, children's and comedy genres – as well as from teams producing specifically 'religious' commissions.

Prize money of around £10,000 is awarded each year to production teams who, in the eyes of the judges, have achieved excellence with thoughtful, innovative content and high production values.

The Awards Ceremony is held at Lambeth Palace, in front of an invited audience of broadcasters, journalists and representatives of religious traditions.

Separate radio and TV judging panels select the winners of the Sandford St Martin Awards (£2,000 for each first-prize winner, and £1,500 for each runner-up). This year's new Children's Award of £2,000 - for the best children's programme or feature on radio, TV or online - will be judged by its own specialist jury.

In addition, there is a Radio Times Readers' Award given to a programme chosen by the magazine's readers and presented by the Editor.

The Trust also makes an annual Trustees' Award as well as occasional Personal Awards for outstanding contributions to the wider understanding of religious broadcasting.

To submit an entry, please read the criteria overleaf and complete an entry form for each programme you wish to enter.

The closing date for entries is Friday 13 February 2015.

Eligibility criteria

- Programmes/features should explore religious themes or examine broader aspects of life of particular interest or concern to religious communities, as well as appealing to a wider, more general audience.
- The Trust welcomes programmes on any of the world religions.
- We welcome entries from news, current affairs, drama, music, arts, children's and comedy genres – as well as from specifically 'religious' commissions.
- Entries for the new Children's Award should be broadcast content – aimed at under 18s – which improves children or young people's understanding of religion and/or introduces them to moral or ethical issues.
- No more than two programmes or episodes of any one series should be submitted. Each episode will count as a separate entry and must be submitted separately.
- Entries should generally have been transmitted by broadcast channel recognised in the UK and been accessible by a UK audience. This includes video or audio made for web channels having a broad variety of editorial content – i.e. not promotional films/audio for single issue websites.
- Non-English content must be accessible to our predominantly English-speaking judges and so MUST be dubbed or subtitled.
- Entries must have been broadcast for the first time between 1 February 2014 and 31 January 2015 and should be 'as transmitted' (for example, no 'highlights', compilations, etc).
- Submission of any entry acknowledges the right of The Sandford St Martin Trust to use it for any legitimate purpose in connection with judging, promotion and presentation of the Awards.

Queries about eligibility should be raised with the Trust and we will adjudicate on a case-by-case basis. You can email: admin@sandfordawards.org.uk

Judging criteria

The judges will be looking for:

- Programmes with a strong religious or spiritual dimension – for example, reflecting, investigating, or exploring a religious or spiritual approach to life and its meaning, seeking to evoke a religious or spiritual response in the viewer, bringing a religious or spiritual perspective to bear on political, social and economic arguments, or, explaining a religious or spiritual point of view, or, an ethical dilemma.
- Boldness, originality and impact in the central editorial idea and its narrative structure – including format, presenters and contributors.
- Creative use of the relevant craft skills – for example, sound, pictures, commentary, script, photography, directing and editing – consistent with the genre and budget.
- Entertaining and engaging content that has clear overall appeal to the target audience.

How to enter

Enter online or [download an entry form](#) from the website.

For each entry, please include:

- [A copy/copies of the programme:](#)
We prefer submissions to be a downloadable electronic file format (for example, mp3/mp4 or any common file format) but will also accept files on physical media. If you are submitting DVDs or CDs please enclose two copies of your programme. If your TV programmes is shortlisted, we will ask you to supply a high definition version (720p or better). Please ensure all media is clearly labelled with the programme title and episode.
- [Your entry form.](#)

Please note:

In 2015 the Trust is waiving entry fees with the aim of encouraging entries from a wide range of people and organisations.

Send completed entries to Gill Macdonald at:

The Sandford St Martin Trust, Rm 202, Church House, Great Smith Street London, SW1P 3AZ

Email: gill@sandfordawards.org.uk