

Call for Entries: AUA Neighborhoods of Asia Photo Contest

This year, the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) is inviting students, faculty, and staff from its member universities to capture the charm of **Asia's neighborhoods** through the camera lens as part of its Embracing Asian Diversity Photo Contest Series. Submissions are open until **March 17, 2024, 11:59 PM (UTC+8)**. Enter now!

Background

The bustling streets and quiet corners of Asia's neighborhoods are where communities thrive and culture flourishes. Which treasures do neighborhoods across Asia hold? What makes Asia's neighborhoods so dynamic, vibrant, and colorful?

Students, faculty, and staff from AUA's member universities have the opportunity to share their answers through this year's Embracing Asian Diversity Photo Contest which centers on the theme "Neighborhoods of Asia."

The photo contest series is hosted by the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) and organized by Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS). It aims to capture and celebrate Asia's diversity and its impact on the world through the lens of the camera and from the varied perspectives across the continent.

In 2022 and 2023, AUA hosted the "Community of Life: Biodiversity Through the Lens" and "Splendor of Asian Cultural Heritage" Photo Contests respectively, calling on participants from member universities across Asia to capture the diversity of Asia through the camera lens.

Theme

The theme of the contest is "**Neighborhoods of Asia.**"

Submitted photographs can depict elements including, but not limited to, community life, people, architecture, transportation, festivals, events, street markets, environment, art, fashion, etc., in urban and rural areas. Photographs depicting traditional or modern neighborhood life are welcome.

Eligibility

Students, faculty, and staff from AUA member universities can participate in the photo contest.

Participants should be **at least 18 years old** to enter the contest.

Deadline

Photos should be submitted via the submission platform (auaphotocontest.awardsplatform.com) **by March 17, 2024 (11:59 PM Beijing time, UTC+8:00)**.

Prizes

Judges will choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize winners. Two participants will be chosen for first prize, four for second prize, and six for third prize.

First prize winners will receive a prize of 500 USD (or the equivalent amount in CNY), 2nd prize winners will receive 300 USD (or the equivalent amount in CNY), and 3rd prize winners will receive 100 USD (or the equivalent amount in CNY). Award money will be taxed in accordance with the laws and regulations of China.

Prize winners and shortlisted participants will also be sent digital award certificates.

Winning and shortlisted photos will be displayed in a photo exhibition organized by Tsinghua SIGS.

First, 2nd, and 3rd prize student winners may also be invited to come to Shenzhen, China, to participate in a summer program. *Participation in the program is dependent on visa regulations and other relevant policies. Only students currently enrolled at AUA member universities at the time of the program will be allowed to participate. Tsinghua SIGS will cover program-related expenses in Shenzhen, including food, housing, and activity expenses. Prize winners will be responsible for other expenses related to the program.*

Submission Requirements

- 1) Submissions should be original photos that relate to the theme “**Neighborhoods of Asia.**”
- 2) Each photo should include a 150 to 200-word description that explains the subject of the photo and its connection to the theme.
- 3) Photo series and collages are NOT accepted. One participant can submit up to 10 photos (entries) and each photo will be judged individually.**
- 4) Please submit all photos and required personal information to the submission platform which can be accessed via auaphotocontest.awardsplatform.com.
- 5) Photos taken with a digital camera or smartphone are accepted. Photos will be judged based on creativity, visual quality, and relevance to the theme.**
- 6) Upload **JPG photo(s) with a size of no less than 1 MB and no greater than 10 MB** to the submission platform. Please name your photo(s) using the following format: UNIVERSITY YOUR NAME PHOTO TITLE (e.g., Tsinghua John SMITH A busy hutong)
- 7) Only minor modifications to the photographs will be accepted (e.g. dodging and burning, aperture, cropping, color balance). Do not add words, symbols, or logos to the photos that are not part of the original photograph.
- 8) Please make sure that you receive a confirmation e-mail for each entry. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, please contact AUA.photocontest@outlook.com. If you have any additional questions about AUA, please contact the AUA Secretariat at aua@tsinghua.edu.cn.
- 9) Photos should not violate any of the terms and conditions (see attachment 2). **Please remember that you should receive permission from any human subjects you photograph; photographs should not violate subjects' copyrights, portrait rights, privacy rights, right to protection against attacks on reputation, etc.**

AUA Photography Contest

Terms & Conditions

1. The Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) and Tsinghua Shenzhen International Graduate School (Tsinghua SIGS) reserve the right to modify, extend, shorten, suspend, or cancel the photography contest without notice and without liability incurred thereby (fortuitous event or “force majeure” and any other events that are considered as making it impossible for the execution of the photography contest as initially planned). No compensation will be awarded to the participants.
2. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS will not be responsible for any internet malfunction preventing access to the photo contest.
3. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS will automatically disqualify any participant who tries to increase his or her chances of winning by using technical means, known or unknown to date. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS hold the right to conduct audits of the methods used by the entrants to determine the consequences they deem appropriate.
4. **Fees and expenses:** Participation in the photography contest is free of charge. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS are not responsible for any expenses that the participants may incur in the creation and submission of the photograph.
5. **Data Protection:** The information provided by the participants may be used for data processing, excluding commercial or political use. The participants have the right to access, rectify, and remove data about themselves by making a formal request to the AUA or Tsinghua SIGS. Participants may request to be omitted or removed from the contest before the closing date of the contest via e-mail.
6. Each participant in the photography contest certifies that he or she is the sole copyright-holder of all submitted photographs and they are original to him/her. The participant bears sole responsibility for any disputes or claims in relation to the submitted photos.
7. The participant has the right to authorize the use of the photographs.
8. Each participant in the photography contest certifies that all submitted photographs do not violate or infringe on any existing copyright or any other third-party rights, including portrait and privacy rights, and contain nothing otherwise unlawful. The participant bears sole responsibility for any disputes or claims in relation to the submitted photos. If AUA or Tsinghua SIGS suffers damages because of such disputes or claims, the participant must compensate AUA or Tsinghua SIGS, whichever is applicable.

- 9. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS reserve the right to grant third parties the non-exclusive right to use competition photos free of charge.** By submitting a photo(s) to the photography contest, the participant authorizes its release (as well as the photographer's full name, pseudonym, school, city, and country of residence), in the framework of the AUA Photography Contest and its promotion, on the AUA and Tsinghua SIGS official websites, and those of its partners, as well as social media networks, on digital communication or media (newspapers, postcards, catalogs, books, posters, exhibitions, videos, etc.), or in publications related to the event by AUA or Tsinghua SIGS, without any form of compensation. Any other use of the photographs will be reported to the author, who is free to give or refuse consent for their use. **The photos will not be used for commercial purposes (sales to third parties) by AUA or Tsinghua SIGS unless authorized by the photographer.**
10. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS agree to include a credit (with the photographer's name) when his/her photograph is published or used for purposes of the contest or exhibition.
- 11. The participant agrees to indemnify AUA and Tsinghua SIGS and hold them harmless against any third-party claims for loss, injury, damage (including any legal costs and/or other expenses properly incurred), prejudice, liability or expense suffered as a result of or in any manner in connection with the contest submission, any other of the acts or omissions or any information provided, including but not limited to, claims for violation of copyrights.**
- 12. The participant grants the AUA and Tsinghua SIGS the right to use his or her name, photograph, image, or likeness in the context of any recording, presentation, video, speech, or other forms of publicity, in connection with the photography contest.**
- 13. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS retain the right to exchange prizes for a similar award of the same value.**
14. AUA and Tsinghua SIGS reserve the right of final explanation of the terms and conditions. Winning contestants will be given three months from the date of the official announcement of contest winners to claim the award by providing relevant bank account information to the contest organizing committee; failure to provide relevant information within the aforementioned timeframe will result in forfeiture of the award.