

***International Journal of Art Therapy* New Practitioner & Early Career Researcher Prize Guidelines**

The *International Journal of Art Therapy* (IJAT) is delighted to award two biennial Prizes: the New Practitioner Art Therapy Practice Paper Prize and the Early Career Researcher Art Therapy Research Paper Prize. Both Prizes are awarded by the British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT) and Routledge Publishers. The aims of the competitions are to celebrate valuable and innovative work produced by trainees, newly qualified practitioners, and early career researchers and to encourage future authors of art therapy literature.

The Prizes are awarded based on the following quality criteria:

- The Prizes will be awarded for the best original *practice paper* written by a new practitioner and *research paper* written by an early career researcher (ECR). Papers can be submitted on any topic relevant to art therapy practice and research which contributes to the development of effective art therapy for service users.
- New Practitioner Prize entrants must be currently enrolled on an Art Therapy Masters or within 3 years of graduation.
- ECR Prize entrants must be currently enrolled on an MA/MSc/MRes/MPhil/PhD or within 3 years of graduation. The ECR does not need to be an art therapist, but art therapy must be the topic of the research.

Both new *practitioner practice papers* and *ECR research papers* must follow the IJAT instructions for authors and use the appropriate template (which can be found [here](#)).

All papers must also include:

- Title with prefix of 'New Practitioner Prize' or 'ECR Prize'.
- A topic relevant to the clinical practice of art therapy.
- Entirely the entrant's own work or co-written with one or more past service users.
- A statement to confirm that the author has written informed consent to publish any client data included in the paper
- References to recent and significant literature
- Reflections on economic and socio-cultural contexts whenever relevant

- The paper must be written in plain English and avoid professional jargon (include clear explanations if this is unavoidable)

Please submit the paper via the 'Submit an article' button at the top of the IJAT website [here](#). Please note that entries which do not comply with the above criteria will not be considered.

Judging

A judging panel of [Associate Editors](#) and previous Prize winners will be chaired by the Editors-in-Chief. The panel's decision will be final. If, in the view of the judges, none of the submissions are of the required standard, the Prizes will not be awarded. The judging criteria for the papers will include:

- Contribution to supporting the development of effective interventions for art therapy service users.
- How well the paper meets all the requirements set out in the appropriate IJAT template.
- Quality of writing.
- Appropriate referencing.
- What is outstanding about the paper.
- How much further work the paper would need to meet IJAT publishing standards.
- For research papers only – scientific rigour.

Awards

The competition winners will receive cash prizes of £300 each awarded by the British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT) and £100 pounds each worth of Routledge publications. Runners-up for each Prize will receive a free 1-day BAAT CPD course. All competition winners (including runners-up) will be offered writing mentorships from IJAT Associate Editors, and their papers will be published in IJAT subject to blind peer review. The winners will be expected to be present at the prizegiving (unless there are extenuating circumstances) and work with BAAT and Taylor & Francis author services to disseminate their papers to encourage and inspire others.