FRONTIERS Video Challenge

As part of its final conference, the FRONTIERS project is launching a video challenge for journalism students enrolled in higher education institutions across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

Participants are invited to submit a short video, by **22 January 2027 (23h59 CET),** responding to the question: **"What makes frontier research interesting and newsworthy?"**. The best entries will be screened during the FRONTIERS final conference, in Lisbon, in April 2027. Their authors will receive free conference registration with accommodation and may be invited to contribute to a conference session.

The challenge

Every day, scientists push the boundaries of what we know; but not every discovery makes headlines, and not every headline captures what actually matters about the discovery. The FRONTIERS Video Challenge invites journalism students to explore that gap: what turns research at the edge of knowledge into a story people want to watch? Is it the human stakes, the surprise factor, the controversy, the "why should I care" moment?

We're looking for short videos that go beyond simply explaining a scientific result: we want to see your take on what makes it a story, and how you'd tell it to an audience that isn't full of scientists.

Entries are encouraged to consider journalistic independence, critical scrutiny, public interest, uncertainty, and the relationship between journalists and researchers.

Format

Participants should submit a short video according to the following guidelines:

Orientation	Vertical (9:16)
Duration	60–90 seconds
Resolution	Full HD (1080p) or 4K
Language	Videos may be submitted in any language
Subtitles	English subtitles are mandatory

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Eligibility

Students currently enrolled in journalism-related programmes at higher education institutions in EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

Terms and conditions

- Each video must be submitted by a single participant.
- Only one video per applicant will be considered. If several are submitted, only the last one will be evaluated.
- The video should be original and created by the applicant. AI-assisted editing and post-production (such as colour grading, relighting, or audio cleanup) are permitted. However, generative AI should not be used to fabricate news events, misrepresent real places or documentary footage, or make real people appear to say or do things they did not. The use of AI tools should be disclosed in the submission form.
- Applicants must have obtained all necessary permissions, licences, and rights for any third-party material included in the video, including audio, music, footage, and images.
- Applicants must consent to the use of their video, name, and affiliation for communication and dissemination purposes within the framework of FRONTIERS. This includes publishing and reproducing the video on FRONTIERS' social media channels and website, as well as screening during the final conference.
- FRONTIERS may make minor technical or editorial adaptations to the video, provided that such adaptations do not alter its substantive content or meaning. Applicants retain all intellectual property rights and other rights to their video.
- The FRONTIERS jury may exclude submissions containing discriminatory, offensive, plagiarised, or inappropriate content.

Submission

Participants should visit the FRONTIERS website (https://frontiers.media/video-challenge/) for full submission details and access to the online submission form. The form requires personal and academic details, a video link (YouTube, Vimeo, or Google Drive), the video title, and a short description in English. Submissions must be made by **22 January 2027 (23h59 CET).**

At submission, applicants will be asked to confirm that they meet the terms and conditions outlined above.

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Evaluation

A jury composed of experts from across FRONTIERS will review and score all submissions. Jury members must declare any potential conflict of interest, and a member who declares one will not evaluate the relevant submission.

Each jury member will independently score each video using the following evaluation criteria and relative weights: **relevance to the guiding question (40%); clarity (25%); originality (25%); technical quality (10%).**

The final score for each video corresponds to the average score given by all the jury members who evaluated it. Ties will be resolved by a second round of voting.

The three highest-scoring videos will be selected for screening during the conference. The jury may also award honourable mentions to videos that did not make the top three.

Results

Selected participants and honourable mentions will be contacted by the FRONTIERS Team by February 2027.

The three finalists will be invited to the final conference in Lisbon (April 2027), with FRONTIERS covering their registration, including coffee breaks and lunch, as well as two nights' accommodation. Their videos will be screened during the conference, and they may also be invited to contribute further to a conference session.

The videos selected for the conference, together with those receiving honourable mentions, will be shared on FRONTIERS social networks.

About FRONTIERS

FRONTIERS is an ERC-funded initiative (2023-2027) that offers three- to five-month fellowships to science journalists across Europe, promoting ethical science reporting and journalistic independence. The project funds journalists' residencies at host institutions conducting frontier research, and offers online and on-site training that builds collaboration between journalists and researchers.

To learn more about FRONTIERS, visit frontiers.media.

Questions? For any queries about the challenge, contact info@frontiersmedia.eu

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