



APS NATIONAL STUDENT DESIGNER AWARDS 2026

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The **Association for Project Safety (APS)**

is thrilled to announce the 2026 National Student Designer Awards—a chance for construction design students to showcase their ability to integrate safety, risk management, and regulatory compliance into their projects.

PRIZES



£1,500
Cash Prize



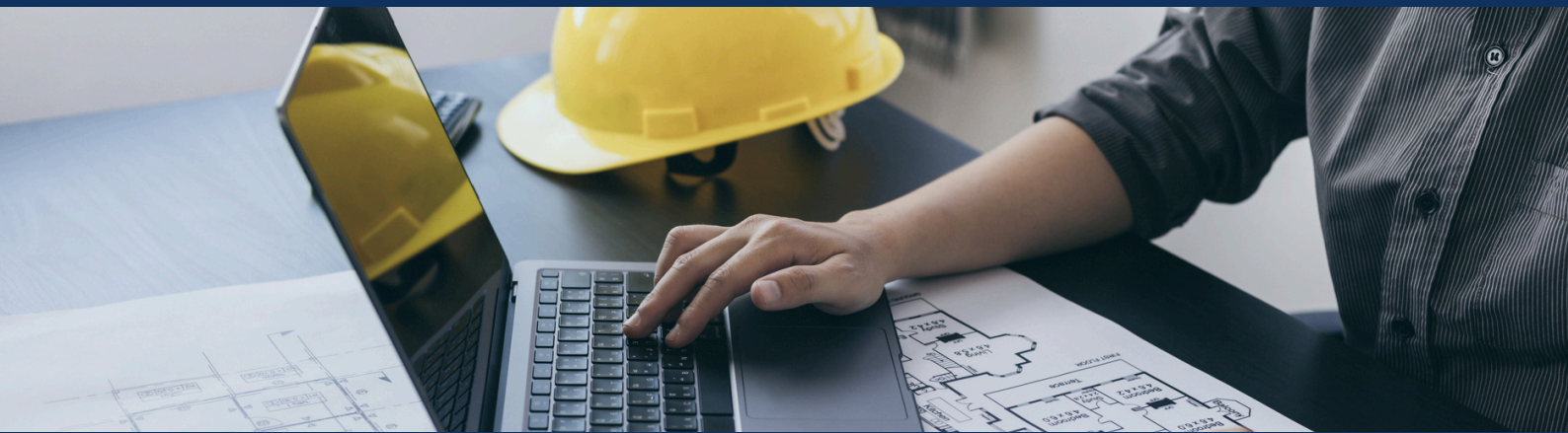
£1,000
Cash Prize



£500
Cash Prize

THE CHALLENGE

The construction industry remains one of the UK's highest-risk sectors, with an average of 2.5 million working days lost a year due to work-related ill health and injury. These figures highlight the very real human and financial cost of poor risk management and the critical role designers play in shaping safer outcomes.



This award recognises students who understand that great design is not only creative it is responsible, practical, and future-focused.

Details of the winning entries for the Student Awards in previous years, which demonstrate the quality of submission anticipated, may be viewed on the APS website at:

www.aps.org.uk/awards



YOUR ROLE AS A DESIGNER

Your design must clearly demonstrate how you:

- Proactively eliminate or minimise risks during construction
- Design for safe maintenance and long-term use
- Consider safe and practical deconstruction at end of life
- Provide innovative solutions where risks cannot be fully eliminated



As a **Principal Designer**, you must assess and address risks affecting:

- Construction and demolition workers
- Maintenance teams over the building's lifetime
- End-users who will occupy or interact with the space

By embedding practical risk management into your design, you'll contribute to a safer, more sustainable construction industry.

WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?

YOUR SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE:

A4 Supporting Text

Clearly explain how your site analysis influenced your design.

Consider:

- Geotechnical & environmental factors – ground conditions, contamination, flood risks, and underground services.
- Site context – adjacent buildings, watercourses, and transport links.
- Safe access & servicing – how the site will be safely accessed during and after construction.



A1 Presentation Sheet

Use annotated diagrams to showcase your design thinking—a key feature of past winning entries!

CAN YOUR BUILDING BE SAFELY BUILT & MAINTAINED?

Judges will assess how your structural solutions:

Prioritise off-site fabrication to reduce risks like working at height.

Consider safe construction sequencing to prevent hazards.

Include maintenance-friendly features, such as ground-level plant rooms.

Address material life cycles to minimise long-term upkeep.

Factor in external cladding maintenance - self-cleaning glass often isn't enough!

Great design isn't just about aesthetics - it's about creating safer, more efficient buildings.



HOW TO ENTER

- Select a project from your current academic portfolio.
- Submit one A1 sheet + up to two A4 pages of text.
- Entries must demonstrate Buildability, Maintainability, and Usability alongside strong graphic presentation.
- Include construction sequence sketches and notes on risk management.



Deadline: Midnight, Tuesday 30 June 2026

Submit to: Laura Hardie – laura.hardie@aps.org.uk

Winners Announced: September 2026

ABOUT APS



The **Association for Project Safety (APS)** champions health and safety risk management in construction. We offer guidance, training, and professional development to support students and industry professionals.

Student Membership is £10 per year!

Student Member Benefits:

- Live, online CPD and webinars
- Access to an online vault of learning through past webinars
- Access to exclusive Practice Notes & best practice guides
- Discounted publications & free regional CPD events
- Boost your CV & employability with APS membership

Join today at:
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