



International Fiscal Association Australian Branch

The RICHARD VANN ESSAY PRIZE 2026

Competition and Prize Rules

The 2026 Richard Vann Prize is an essay prize to reward an outstanding candidate with a cash prize of \$5000. The winner will also receive free IFA membership for one year and free registration to the IFA Melbourne Congress, to be held between 18-22 October 2026. See <https://www.ifa2026melbourne.com/>

1. Subject to any other provision of these rules, the Prize is open to any Australian resident IFA member studying or practicing in the field of taxation.
2. A non-member is eligible to participate if the non-member is eligible for IFA membership and submits a membership application at the time of submitting for the Award.
3. The essay topic will be on any area of international taxation.
4. The deadline for submission of essays is 30 May 2026 with the prize to be awarded by 30 June 2026.
5. The Prize includes:
 - a. Certificate recording the author as the recipient of the Richard Vann Essay Prize 2026.
 - b. the Early Bird Congress registration fee for the Melbourne Congress. Attendance at the Congress is a requirement of the Award.
 - c. AUD \$5,000 cash prize.
 - d. IFA membership for one year.
6. The Prize is not transferable to another person.
7. A member of the IFA Australia Executive is not eligible to win the prize.
8. Each essay must contain footnotes (referenced according to a standard reference system such as the Australian Guide to Legal Citation - AGLC4-2021-v1.pdf, mulr.com.au) and should be between 5,000 and 10,000 words plus an Abstract of not more than 150 words.
9. Single-authored or multiple-authored essays will be accepted, but each author must be an Australian resident IFA member and the authors must nominate a single author to be awarded the Prize.
10. A person may submit an unpublished original essay (whether or not for submission in an accredited course of study), or a published paper or written conference paper that has been presented or published within 12 months before the submission date of 30 May 2026.
11. The submitted essay must be accompanied by a separate cover page containing:
 - a. Author's name(s).
 - b. Contact details.
 - c. A declaration by the person submitting that the essay is the person's original work.

By submitting an essay, participants agree that IFA Australia may conduct an integrity check for copyright infringement or plagiarism.
12. By submitting an essay, the author does not vest copyright in the essay in IFA Australia, or otherwise affect ownership of that copyright, but grants a non-exclusive licence to IFA Australia to publish the article on its website or in other ways it deems fit. The winner of the Prize must agree that if the essay is published through any other avenue of publication, that publication will be accompanied by an acknowledgment that the essay was the Prize-winning essay in the relevant year.
13. IFA may also choose to note a non-winning entry as "Highly Commended" and may provide suitable acknowledgement.
14. The Prize will be awarded for the essay assessed to be the best by a Judging Panel of three members of the Executive Committee of IFA Australia. The criteria to be used will include significance and originality of contribution, clarity and focus of the methodology, theory or approach of the chosen topic, structure and logic of argument (including persuasiveness and practicality of argument), practical relevance and presentation.
15. The decision of the Judging Panel is final.
16. It is open to IFA Australia to take up and recommend to any institution or agency for implementation, any idea expressed in any essay submitted. Where appropriate, IFA Australia will use its best endeavours to ensure that the source of an idea is acknowledged.
17. By submitting an essay, a person agrees to be bound by these and any other Rules governing the prize.
18. IFA Australia reserves the right to vary these rules.

