



## Back to Zero Awards

The **Back to Zero Awards** competition is organised by the TEDxSapienzaU Committee and aims to promote valuable ideas in line with the TED motto "Ideas worth spreading", offering winners the prestigious opportunity to perform on stage at the 2023 edition of TEDxSapienzaU.

## REGULATIONS

### **Art. 1 Addressees of the competition**

Only students, PhD candidates, and post-graduate students regularly enrolled at Sapienza University of Rome, who have developed their own valuable idea and are motivated to spread it within our university community, are eligible to participate in the competition.

### **Art. 2 Deadline for submitting the application**

You can submit your application starting from **February 27th, 2023, until March 19th, 2023, at 11:59 PM**. The access link to the online application process will be published on the website [www.tedxapienzau.com](http://www.tedxapienzau.com) and on the social media channels [@tedxsapienzau](https://www.instagram.com/tedxapienzau).

### **Art. 3 Application procedure**

Two kinds of application are provided:

1. application for the category **Speaker**;
2. application for the category **Artist**,

Depending on whether the candidate prefers to express their valuable idea through a speech or an artistic performance of any kind.

### **Art. 4 Conditions for the validity of the application**

For the application to be considered valid, the following conditions must be met.

- Compliance with TED guidelines, according to which it is **FORBIDDEN** to:
  1. explicitly sponsoring commercial activities;
  2. adopting political positions or provocative behaviour;
  3. take religious positions;
  4. promote pseudo-scientific ideologies.

- Relevance of the proposed idea or performance to the **"Back to Zero" theme**, according to a personal interpretation of the theme with reference to one or more of its declinations. Below is a brief description.

The choice of the theme "Back to Zero" is in line with our goal of zeroing, searching for a zero point.

"Back to Zero" can be understood:

- towards the world around us, to return to a condition of equality and absence;
- in relation to the person, to return to the essential;
- in its evolutionary and scientific meaning, hence return to the origins of the cosmos;
- in relation to the planet.

## **Art. 5 Essential requirements for application**

To complete the application, the following documents must be attached to the online procedure.

### **→ ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPEAKER APPLICATION:**

1. Curriculum Vitae;
2. Motivational Letter (max. 4000 characters);
3. Video presentation of max. 2 minutes including a short presentation of oneself and a short speech\*.

### **→ ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ARTIST APPLICATION:**

1. Curriculum Vitae;
2. Motivational Letter (max. 4000 characters);
3. Video presentation of max. 2 minutes including a short presentation of oneself and a short performance\*.

Individual artists or groups (max. 3/5 members) are admitted to the competition.

\*If the file is too heavy for the Google Form attachment, we request the creation of a shared Drive file where the video can be viewed.

## **Art. 6 Invalidity of application**

Applications that have not been submitted by 19 March 2023, that do not meet the conditions set out in Article 4 or that lack the essential requirements set out in Article 5, or that are not completed in accordance with the indications, will be considered invalid.

## **Art. 7 Evaluation of the application**

All nominations are examined by a Commission composed of the TEDxSapienzaU Board of

Directors, a referent from the research, innovation and third mission area and respectively a Sapienza central administration Area referent for the Speakers, and a CREA representative for the Artists.

### **Art. 8 Evaluation criteria (first selection phase)**

In order to evaluate the applications and select the Semifinalists, the Commission considers the following elements:

For Speakers:

- Quality and originality of the idea
- Expository skills
- Inspirational component

For Artists:

- Quality and originality of the performance
- Performing and interpretative skills
- Inspirational component

### **Art. 9 Technical Specifications**

The New Athenaeum Theatre and the Organising Committee do not have all the necessary equipment for certain types of performances.

Applicants are invited to submit any requests to the staff, who will endeavour to fulfill them wherever possible.

Available equipment: microphones, grand piano, audio amplification and projector.

### **Art. 10 Access to the semi-finals (second selective phase)**

**The Evaluation Committee selects 9 Speakers and 6 Artists who will have access to the semi-final stage.**

**Only positive results** will be communicated directly to the individual candidate at his or her institutional mail address by 25 March 2023.

### **Art. 11 Voting criteria for the semi-final**

- Evaluation Committee vote - worth 70% of the final grade;
- Instagram contest - worth 30% of the final grade.

Together with the announcement of a positive result, the candidate will be asked to

answer three questions by means of a video (maximum length 1 minute). The objective is to allow the candidate to make himself better known, both to the social audience and to the Commission.

The candidate is required to provide authorisation for the publication on the Instagram page @tedxsapienzau of:

1. a high-resolution personal photo;
2. the above-mentioned video.

The video and photo must be sent to the following address: [info@tedxsapienzau.com](mailto:info@tedxsapienzau.com).

### **Art.12 Contest rules on Instagram**

The contest will take place on Instagram, with the aim of allowing the social audience to express their preference among the semifinalists by liking the post corresponding to the chosen candidate.

Only likes coming from account followers of the Instagram page @tedxsapienzau will be considered valid.

At the end of the voting, a ranking will be drawn up based on the number of likes received, to be integrated with the Commission's vote.

**The ranking includes 6 Speakers and 4 Artists - the finalists - who will access the final of the TEDxSapienzaU Awards competition.**

The **only positive result** will be communicated by e-mail to the institutional mail address by **30 March 2023**.

### **Art. 13 Final exhibition**

Candidates who pass the first and second selective stages will have to perform on the stage of the final, and in case of victory also on the stage of the TEDxSapienzaU 2023, with the same speech or performance presented at the application stage.

### **Art. 14 Conduct of the final (third selective stage)**

The 10 finalists will have the opportunity to perform their performance or speech live, for a maximum duration of 10 min. The finalists will be granted the opportunity to rehearse their speech or performance at a dress rehearsal on 17 April 2023.

The final will be held on **18 April 2023** at the **New Athenaeum Theatre** (located within the University City) in the presence of the Commission and the Main Sponsors of TEDxSapienzaU 2023.

## **Art. 15 Criteria for selecting winners**

During the final, the judging committee selects the winners according to the following criteria:

➤ Speaker Criteria:

1. Quality and originality of the idea;
2. Stage presence.

➤ Artist Criteria:

1. Quality and originality of the performance;
2. Stage presence.

The **5 winners** of the TEDxSapienzaU Awards competition, **3 Speaker and 2 Artist**, will be awarded on stage at the final and will have the opportunity to perform during the TEDxSapienzaU 2023 event!

## **Art. 16 Exclusion from the competition**

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of these regulations without any conditions or reservations.

Failure to comply with any one of the conditions governing the validity of the entry shall result in automatic exclusion from the competition.

## **HELP/ CONTATTI:**

[info@tedxsapienzau.com](mailto:info@tedxsapienzau.com)

Ig: [@tedxsapienzau](https://www.instagram.com/tedx_sapienza_u)

[www.tedxapienzau.com](http://www.tedxapienzau.com)