



2026 Students' Essay Writing Competition Guide

Background

The Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) is pleased to announce the 2026 Students' Essay Writing Competition (SEWC). This year's theme is '*Unlocking Potential: Making Reforms Inclusive for the Youth*'. The theme aligns with the 2026 ECAMA Annual Economic Conference (AEC) theme, '*From Policy to Practice: Making Reforms Work*' which recognizes that Malawi continues to face economic hardships despite the presence of well-articulated policy frameworks and reforms across various sectors, which aim at supporting economic recovery of the country. While considerable efforts have been made to design and implement reforms, many have not yielded the intended outcomes due to challenges related to implementation, coordination, and institutional capacity. ECAMA recognizes that in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable development outcomes from different reforms, it is important to unlock the potential of the youth and actively involve them in the drive.

The Call

ECAMA is therefore inviting its 2026 paid-up undergraduate student members to submit their essays for this year's SEWC. In their essays, students should critically reflect on Malawi's recurring economic challenges including high inflation, foreign exchange shortages, unsustainable public debt levels, and low productivity despite having well designed policy reforms in place and to propose bold and innovative solutions to enhance the effectiveness of these policy reforms. Students should discuss root causes of youth exclusion in policy design and implementation, and propose practical, innovative, and transformative solutions that can strengthen youth participation in reform processes and hence improve the effectiveness of policy implementation. The solutions should demonstrate how reforms can contribute to sustainable economic growth, resilience, improved economic opportunities and participation, and improved livelihoods for young Malawians.

The authors of the top four essays will be awarded the opportunity to attend the 2026 ECAMA AEC and present a summary of their essays to the audience in a way of a students' panel discussion.

Essay Submission Requirements

Submissions should be presented in the following format:

1. **Font type** - Times New Roman
2. **Font size** - 12
3. **Line spacing** - 1.15
4. **Alignment** - Justified
5. **Maximum number of words** - 1000

All essays should be submitted through admin@ecamamw.com by 16:00 hours on Friday, **31st July 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Successful students will be notified by **Monday, 31st August 2026**.