The Isabelle de Courtivron Prize was established to reward high-quality undergraduate writing (creative or expository) and to honor distinguished Professor Emerita Isabelle de Courtivron, a professor in MIT Foreign Languages and Literatures (now renamed Global Languages). The Prize was established on the occasion of her retirement in 2010 and is awarded on an annual basis. Student writing submissions are invited on topics related to immigrant, diaspora, bicultural, bilingual, and/or mixed-race experiences. The de Courtivron Prize is open to all MIT undergraduate students.

The first prize winner will receive a $400 award. The second prize winner will receive a $100 award. The Award committee may also award a select number of “Honorable Mentions” (which do not carry a cash award). The winning submissions will be featured on the Global Languages website (languages.mit.edu). Winning entrants will also be invited to a Global Languages awards event.

For more information contact languages-awards@mit.edu.

Submission Rules

1. The deadline for submission is Thursday, March 3, 2022 (by 11:59 PM).
2. Entries should address topics related to immigrant, diaspora, bicultural, bilingual, and/or mixed-race experiences.
3. An entry may be fiction or nonfiction, including essays, prose, poetry, short story, memoir or other writing. An entry may not exceed 25 typed double-spaced pages, and should be in Word or PDF format.
4. A student may submit up to two entries. Each entry will be considered separately.
5. Each entry must be submitted with a cover sheet. The coversheet can be downloaded from the Global Languages website.
6. Works that have been previously published are not eligible for submission. Entries written for classes or as part of undergraduate theses are eligible.
7. The panel of reviewers for the de Courtivron Prize, and the general readers of the published winning entries, may speak a variety of global languages, but they share only English as a common language. Award submissions will be evaluated based on their effectiveness in communicating with these readers. Submissions may include judicious use of other languages as long as the entries are “reader-friendly” for a general audience.
8. Students must be MIT undergraduates to submit work; cross-registered Wellesley and Harvard students, and MIT graduate students, are not eligible.
9. The winning work will be published on the website of Global Languages (languages.mit.edu). The student will retain copyright.
10. Submit entries and cover sheets to: languages-awards@mit.edu. If you have not received an emailed acknowledgement of your submission within 24 hours, please contact us at languages-awards@mit.edu.