

## University of Aberdeen THOMAS REID COLLECTING PRIZE 2026

### APPLICATION FORM

## WHAT DO **YOU** COLLECT?

Please email completed application forms to Jennifer Shaw (Learning & Outreach Officer, University Collections) at [jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk)

The deadline for applications is midnight on **Friday 20th February 2026**.

<b>STUDENT ID NUMBER</b> (Do not include your name on this form)	
<b>TITLE OF YOUR COLLECTION</b>	

#### Guidelines

Describe how and why you created your collection, along with some of its contents. Use around 1000 words and include any images you think might be relevant.

Please tell us about:

- The overall character of your collection.
- Why you created the collection, including personal and/or professional factors.
- How you created the collection.
- What sort of material you would like to add to your collection, and why.
- Some specific items you would like to purchase.

Include a descriptive list of the most significant items in your current collection.

Remember to demonstrate a coherent vision, along with creativity and originality!

**About your Collection [1000-2000 words]**

## **RULES & FURTHER INFORMATION FOR SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES**

1. The prize is awarded through the generous support of Dr William Zachs. Its purpose is to encourage students at the University of Aberdeen to develop their own coherent collections of printed material.
2. Payment of the prize will be in two parts. The first part is a payment of £500 to the winner with the expectation that this will be used to enhance their collection. The second part is an allowance of £250 for the purchase of an item or items for the University Collections, (within six months of the award) to be selected by the winner in co-operation with University Collections curator(s).
3. The prize will be offered to a registered student at the University of Aberdeen. This includes undergraduate and postgraduate students, taught and research students, and part-time and full-time students. Students pursuing Individual Subject Study are not eligible to apply.
4. The entrant must have an existing collection and be its sole owner. The collection may consist of books or other printed material and have a common theme.
5. You may resubmit an application from a previous year if you can demonstrate its development in the intervening period.
6. Entries should be submitted using the University of Aberdeen Thomas Reid Collecting Prize 2026 application form.
7. The Prize will be awarded at the judges' discretion. The award will be based on the interest, originality, thoughtfulness, creativity and importance of the collection, and the vision of the collector. The age, size and monetary value of the collection will not be relevant criteria. The judges' decision on any matter is final.
8. Entries will be judged by a panel drawn from University Collections, The University of Aberdeen Development and Alumni Relations Directorate, and relevant academic disciplines.
9. If won by an undergraduate, the prize will be recorded on their enhance degree transcript.
10. Completed application forms must be emailed to Jennifer Shaw (Learning & Outreach Officer) at [jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk) no later than **Friday 20th February 2026**.

### **Information for shortlisted candidates**

- If you are shortlisted for the award, you will be contacted by **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**.
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to deliver a 10-minute presentation about their collection to the judges panel on **Wednesday 11th March 2026** at the Sir Duncan Rice Library in the Lower Ground Floor Seminar Room.
- Your presentation should include PowerPoint slides. The presentation must be emailed to [jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jennifer.shaw1@abdn.ac.uk) by **Monday 9th March 2026**.
- Your presentation may also include a selection of items from your collection which the judges encourage you to bring along on the day.
- Presentations will take place between 11:00 – 13:00. A time slot will be allocated to you.
- All shortlisted candidates are required to attend the award announcement and reception in the afternoon of **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 14.30-15.00**.

### **Timetable for shortlisted candidates, Wednesday 11th March 2026**

**11:00-13:00** Shortlisted candidates deliver 10-minute presentations to the judging panel.

**13:00-14:30** Judging

**14:30-15:00** Candidates invited back for the award announcement and refreshments.

If you have any questions about the Thomas Reid Collecting Prize, please email

[uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:uoacollections@abdn.ac.uk).