FAQs

What is OPENx?

OPENx is a speaking programme for young people who have an idea they want to share with the world. 15 applicants will be selected for an online training programme, where they'll work with expert mentors to develop a TED-style talk. An in-person audition will determine which speakers advance to the TEDxLondon stage in 2027.

Website: openx.tedxlondon.com
Instagram: @openx_uk

Who is OPENx for?

Young people aged 16-25, based in the UK, with an idea they want to share on climate, democracy, or justice. You don't need to be an expert, have a polished pitch, or have a public speaking background.

What is the schedule of the programme?

- 12 October, 6pm: Online Q&A for prospective applicants.
- 15 October, 12pm: Applications close.
- 26 October: All applicants hear back.
- 5, 12, 19 and 26 November, 6-8pm: Online speaker training, plus additional mentoring sessions in small groups (timings TBD).
- 12 December: In-person audition day in London.
- 24-25 April 2027: TEDxLondon event. All 15 participants are invited to attend, whether or not they're selected to speak.

What are you looking for in the applications?

We're looking for young people with a point of view they can't stop thinking about — something rooted in what they've lived, noticed, or refused to accept. The strongest ideas often aren't the most obvious ones; they're the ones only that person could tell.

That might look like:

- A personal experience turned into action: "*I was too young to vote, so I organised instead*"
- A hidden system made visible: "*The forces behind our food choices*"
- A human story behind the statistics: "*Lost in the numbers: the story of young migrants*"
- An uncomfortable truth about your own community: "*What my hometown doesn't want to say about flooding*"
- A different lens on a familiar debate:"*Democracy looks different from a wheelchair*

Does it cost anything to take part?

OPENx is fully sponsored. All training, mentoring, and travel costs for in-person participation (including the audition day and TEDxLondon event) are covered by us.

I have access requirements, can these be accommodated?

The application form asks about any access requirements for the online training and the in-person audition day. We will do our best to accommodate them.

What if I can't make one of the four training dates?

If you are selected to partake in the training, we ask that you join at least three of the four training sessions. Participation is required for the in-person audition day.

I have an idea but it’s not a full talk. Is it still worth me applying?

Absolutely. OPENx is for finding new ideas and undiscovered voices, and our coaches will help you shape yours into a talk. Past winners have spoken about chicken shops as social hubs, technology and creativity, unconventional careers,

and new ways to think about youth offending. This year's themes are climate, democracy and justice, so we ask you to submit an idea that touches on one of these themes (or a combination of them).

I'm 16 / 17, do my parents or guardians need to give consent?

Yes. If you're 16 or 17, we'll ask for parental/guardian consent as part of the application process, covering participation and any use of your image or video.

What if I'm not selected to speak on the TEDxLondon stage?

As much as we'd love to, unfortunately we can't send all 15 participants to the TEDxLondon stage. However, we will be inviting the whole cohort to join us in-person at the event (with travel costs covered by us).

How is the final decision made on who speaks at TEDxLondon?

A panel of friendly judges will score each audition on the audition day. We're looking for original ideas, clarity, and authenticity, not polish or prior experience. Speakers who are selected to progress to the TEDxLondon stage will receive additional coaching from our team to get their talks ready.

Can I bring someone with me to the audition day?

You're welcome to bring a +1 (i.e. a parent, friend or mentor) to the in-person audition in London. Please check in with us ahead of time to see if we can support with covering their travel costs, if applicable.

Who do I contact with questions?

We'll be hosting an online Q&A at 6pm on October 12. Otherwise, you can email openx@tedxlondon.com any time before the deadline.