



**MÉXICO**  
EMBASSY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM



University of  
**Southampton**



## Call for Submissions for United Kingdom Secondary Schools Mexican Day of the Dead Altar Video Competition 2023



Dear schools,

The Mexican Embassy in the UK and co-collaborator Dr Jane Lavery (Southampton University) have the pleasure of inviting your students to participate in our second *Mexican Day of the Dead* short video school competition!

With its Catholic and Aztec roots, *Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead)* is an important event which is celebrated annually on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November. It comprises a beautiful series of rituals where many Mexicans in Mexico, the USA, across the UK and globally, happily and lovingly honour the lives of many departed ancestors. Families remember their dead, place altars in their homes, decorate tombs and attend huge street events.

The purpose of the video will be to encourage participants to learn through active cross-curricular creative hands-on engagement about this fascinating cultural festival. The aim of this video will be an important way of celebrating cultural differences and inclusivity, as well as highlighting that the *Día de Muertos* is not a 'Mexican Halloween.' The video does not have to be led by Spanish department pupils uniquely and could be a cross-departmental activity.

What are the rules of submission?

- Participants from **any** secondary school (in the UK) and **any** secondary school levels: 7-13
- The video must capture the creation of an altar and any related creative activities associated with *Día de Muertos*.
- To see the 2022 winning videos see <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2022/11/1-national-schools-mexican-day-of-the-dead-altar-video-competition-2022.page> and the video created by the winners of a similar competition run by the Mexican Embassy to Ireland, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMrQkmEgjwk>. Also see below link to activity ideas with teaching resources below. The videos might help to inspire your children but their videos **must be creative, unique** and **not** replicate.

- **Materials** used and, if desired, themes, with the **environment/recycling** in mind (i.e. an altar in honour of extinct species to raise awareness of climate change)
- Schools will only be able to submit **one** video per school and it must be no longer than **3-5 mins**.
- **Registration date: 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 by 7 pm**. Only a maximum of **20** schools will be able to compete, so please register as early as possible as the registration is on a first-come-first served basis. If you are unsuccessful, we will put your school on a waiting list. If you are unsuccessful this year, we will prioritise those on the waiting list for next year's competition. Please send an email to [mloutreach@soton.ac.uk](mailto:mloutreach@soton.ac.uk) to inform Marie Weaver that you will be submitting a video. Please also let Ms Weaver know that you intend to withdraw to give other schools on the waiting list the opportunity to register for the competition.
- The submission date of video: **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 by 7 pm**
- The video **must** be saved with **the name of the school** and as a **YouTube video link** to [mloutreach@soton.ac.uk](mailto:mloutreach@soton.ac.uk). In the **subject of email** add Day of the Dead video competition. Include your contacts details and school name in the body of the email/text.
- Please kindly ensure that you have asked for parents'/guardian's consent and children's assent, for the children to feature on the videos and for anonymous written feedback by following your schools' internal ethics forms. By submitting the video and also the required anonymous teacher and pupil feedback, this will be taken as **consent/assent** by the school, parents/guardians and children for the videos and feedback to be featured on public Southampton University LCL Outreach page, the Mexican Embassy's social media/website sites, to promote the school activities and during the online ceremony. As the video competition is based on Lavery's research project into the Mexican Day of the Dead, she will ask each school for permission if they are happy for the anonymous feedback to be used for her research.

After the judges from the Mexican Embassy and Southampton University have made their decision, the top 3 winners will be announced online as part of the National *Día de Muertos* Awards Ceremony in the **second week of November 2023 (13-17: Date TBC)** which will be virtually hosted by Southampton University during school hours. The Mexican Ambassador to the UK will welcome schools and announce the winners, and Dr Jane Lavery will give a brief talk about the Mexican Day of the Dead. Teachers, pupils and parent/carers would be most welcome to attend.

The top 3 winning videos will also be played during the event. All school students will receive a **digital certificate of achievement** and the top three winners will also receive a prize, courtesy of the Embassy and Southampton University.

Even if schools choose not to submit a video, we are also inviting schools across England / the UK to become involved with exciting cross-curricular activities whilst also enhancing cultural awareness.

We are therefore inviting schools to send us (anonymised) images or videos of their creations to [our Twitter account](#) by the 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

If you are interested, please see our webpage about the *Day of the Dead* with links to teaching resources, arts-and-crafts activities, and information about the Day of the Dead. LCL outreach page: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/ml/news/events/2021/11/day-of-the-dead.page>

We do hope that your students are able to participate in this amazing opportunity!

Warm Regards,

Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom

Dr Jane Lavery (University of Southampton)