



Call for Cumulus Student Talent Camps Hosts 2025

Now open!

Cumulus announces a special call for proposals for member institutions to host and organize, as an individual member institution or as a consortium of Cumulus member institutions, a Cumulus Student Talent Camp aiming at leveraging the talents of the student community. The camp should be held anytime during the year 2025.

Application deadline is Thursday 10 October 2024.

Cumulus Student Talent Camps:

I. Overview

The Cumulus Student Talent Camp is a special student program offered by the Cumulus Association to enrich the Cumulusian community and advance the mission and values of the association by offering new possibilities to students.

Camps are to be non-profit in nature with the goals to create inspiring exceptional learning environments that foster engagement, networking, collaboration, and knowledge exchange under the umbrella of art, media and design education and research in an open and friendly atmosphere that celebrates the increasingly diverse and global nature of the Cumulus “family”. The camp focuses on topics of importance defined by the host.

The first pilot Student Talent Camp was organized on October 30 – November 4, 2023, in Jaipur, India hosted by ARCH College of Design and Business as a test bed to support the future organization of the camps. The theme of the camp was Design Identity Direction. Learn more about the camp from [their website](#). The second camp was held in Pordenone, Italy on July 15-20, 2024 by Consorzio Universitario di Pordenone, ISIA di Pordenone and Associazione Culturale Pordenone Design. Check the camp's website [here](#).

II. Important Facts

Camp Organization and Execution

The camp is organized as non-profit event by either one single member institution, or alternatively, by a consortium of Cumulus member institutions that come together to design a single talent camp experience that can be closely coordinated across multiple institutional resources. Once their proposal is accepted, host is responsible for the budget, planning and the execution of their talent camp. Cumulus secretariat participates in sharing information of the camp and can help as separately agreed with any other operational.

A Student Talent Camp fee may be charged by the organizing host institution(s) towards covering the cost of the organization, but not including the travel and accommodation fees of the participants. The fee should be non-profit to the host. In planning the camp, it is an expectation to comply with integrating any activities that are part already of the association’s ongoing values and other activities. The organizer can welcome sponsor(s).

Timing

A camp can be held anytime during 2025.

Camp Length and Format

The ideal is from 5-7 days in length. Format is onsite, with workshopping, site trips, lectures by the host academics and others invited etc. Online participation is enabled within the camp program at least to some extent, if possible.

Selection of the Students

A minimum requirement is the sending Cumulus member university selects the participating students, and the hosting university welcomes the participants within the framework of the maximum number of participants. Any additional selection process can be proposed.

Size and Programming

The number of participants can vary according to the resources. The proposal hosting the Talent Camp will show a draft program of the camp around a topic and a role of the academics and staff and any other, presenting during the camp program, e.g. from business, industry or NGOs. It will justify the relevance of the program and show the skills developed during the camp. If necessary, the Camp program and its operations are subject to be developed further, assisted with the Cumulus Executive board and secretariat.

Host - Responsibility

The host institution is responsible for the advertising and registration of the attendees, with the use of Cumulus social media channels and assisted by the Cumulus secretariat. Cumulus cannot additionally fund, nor fundraise for a Cumulus Talent Camp but may be able to support it with finding sponsors or equivalent. A close partnership between the Cumulus Secretariat, the Cumulus Executive board and the host institution ensures quality and continuity of Cumulus programming across future camps.

Some Benefits

Cumulus Student Camp adds value to the participants and organiser(s). The camp can be credited in the degree of the participant.

Host institution(s) proposing the camp, organizing it and its thematic, do it under the Cumulus umbrella. The recommendation is to choose a current topic responding to needs of Earth, not only limited to e.g. to UN SDGs, but also topics relevant to the host and its environment, city/region/country/continent do matter.

The host of a camp benefits by sharing knowledge, getting solutions to critical questions in a multicultural situation, developing further projects and partnership, creating a community and gaining visibility in receiving an international audience. Organizing Cumulus Student Talent Camp is a true recognition.

The outcome and visuals of the camp are aimed to be exhibited during the following Cumulus conference and reported via Cumulus social channels. A publication/documentation is carried out as an outcome of the camp, as free downloadable at Cumulus website.

III. Key Ingredients of a Successful Cumulus Student Talent Camp

In submitting an application to host a camp, member institution(s) is encouraged to develop a plan that strives to embrace the following ingredients which are conducive to designing a successful Camp experience.

1. Embracing Multidisciplinary Talent Camp Theme

Unlike many other camps that may focus on a narrow domain of education, research or practice, Cumulus camp themes are expected to succeed best, when they strike a balance in their programming approach. For example, camps can be provocative about new directions and contemporary issues in art, design and media education, research and/or practice, as well as be widely multi-disciplinary and broad enough to resonate with the wide spectrum of interests among the members of the association.

2. Rigorous Management of the Pedagogical Dimension of the Camp

While Cumulus camps may vary in format, some hosts choose to take a more practice-oriented focus, all camps should strive to include a mix of professional and academic practices.

3. Gaining a Deeper Understanding of the Richness of the Local Institutional and Regional Context

Providing Cumulus students with an introduction to the host institution is a paramount to the experience of a good Cumulus Student Talent Camp. Finding ways to honor the richness of the host's local and regional context in the overall programming of the camp. Host institutions are encouraged to shape this experience in a variety of ways that make sense to their unique circumstances.

4. Cultivating a sense of community

The "open and friendly atmosphere" of the Cumulus family is fundamental to the camp organized under the Cumulus umbrella. Designing the camp program that allows for participants to network and celebrate being together through sharing expertise, connecting over breaks, participating together in a local cultural or social event or field excursion is a very important part of a Cumulus Student Camp.

5. Diversity, Access and Inclusion

Cumulus is committed to celebrating the diversity of its membership and see that diversity reflected by camp hosts in key aspects of the programming of all camps (inclusive of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, etc.).

The camp also welcomes a contribution by CirroCumulus Student Group.

IV. Cumulus Student Talent Camp Requirements

More Operational

All Cumulus hosts should plan for visual documentation and photography and media capture (including social media) of the camp (and obtain any necessary advance permissions from participants and speakers). Hosts must commit to transfer a curated set of visuals from the camp, rights given for free to Cumulus secretariat for promotional and archival purposes.

Conference hosts are responsible for all logistical and hospitality arrangements connected to the organization of the camp. They should anticipate the complexity of welcoming international participants (visa, etc). and adequate spaces to accommodate workshops, meals, negotiating a diverse price-range of accommodations (and making available as much as possible affordable when possible and/or necessary for local transportation arrangements between accommodation and camp venue(s).

Each participant is responsible for the visa, travel insurance and equivalent. Students are encouraged to pursue additional scholarship through their home institution. The host will provide a written report of the camp in one month after the end of the camp, the outcome is shared at Cumulus website and media, the host is ready to present the outcomes during the coming Cumulus conference.

English is the language of Cumulus Student Talent Camps and of all their communication materials.

Talent camp host coordination with Cumulus Secretariat and Board

Host institutions and their conference organizing team coordinate and communicate closely with Cumulus Secretariat and the board throughout key milestones of the talent camp's planning in order to design a successful camp.

Cancellation Policy and Liabilities

The bid is binding.

Only force majeure circumstances are to be considered as permissible grounds for cancellation. By participating in the Cumulus Talent Camp, the hosting institution(s), participant(s) waive/s any and all claims of liability against Cumulus, its employees and representatives, for any personal injury or loss which may occur from the conduct of, or participation in, the program, or from the use of any additional grant. No responsibility is assumed by Cumulus for any injury and/or damage to other persons, property as a matter of liability, negligence, or otherwise recognized reason caused by the hosting institution, camp participant or any third party participating in the program.

Student Talent Camp Proposal Required Content

How to Apply?

Applications will be reviewed by the Cumulus Executive Board in its meeting after the submission deadline.

Application Content

1. Host(s)
2. Topic – title and short intro
3. Max number of participants
4. Time and confirmation deadline to the participants
5. Venue(s)
6. About housing
7. Organizing team
8. A list of teachers and speakers (subject to update during the organizing period)
9. A website where information for the marketing and reporting purposes
10. Any other relevant, sponsors, etc.

Application deadline is Thursday 10 October 2024.

Applications to be sent to applications@cumulusassociation.org cc. eija.salmi@aalto.fi with the title 'Cumulus Student Talent Camp host application'.

Questions

Any questions should be directed before the deadline via email to:
Eija Salmi at eija.salmi@aalto.fi
with copy to Justyna Molik at justyna.molik@aalto.fi.

Check our website for information at cumulusassociation.org.