

# Cumulus Student Talent Camp

SUBMISSION BY  
01/04/2026

# 1. Overview

The Cumulus Student Talent Camp is a special student program offered by the Cumulus Association to enrich the Cumulus community and advance the mission and values of the association by offering new possibilities to students. Camps are non-profit in nature with the goal of creating 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, friendly, and respectful atmosphere that celebrates the increasingly diverse and global nature of the Cumulus community. The camp focuses on topics of importance defined by the host.

The first pilot Student Talent Camp, hosted by ARCH College of Design and Business in India in 2023, focused on the theme “Design Identity Direction. Learning from Living Traditions in a regional and global context”. This camp served as a test bed to support the future organization of the camps (see website). The second camp, “Design for Complex Societies,” was held in Pordenone, Italy in 2024, hosted by Consorzio Universitario di Pordenone, ISIA di Pordenone, and Associazione Culturale Pordenone Design. Check the camp’s website here. The third camp visited Africa, hosted by the Africa Design School in Cotonou, Benin in 2025. The theme was “Design and Local Craftsmanship: Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Impact.” Learn more about the camp here.

## 2. Important Facts

### Camp Organization and Execution

The camp is organized as a 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. We encourage the integration of local actors or communities to enhance the local experience for participants. Once the proposal is accepted, the host is responsible for the budget, planning, and execution of the talent camp. The Cumulus secretariat participates in sharing information about the camp and can provide additional operational support as separately agreed.

A Student Talent Camp fee may be charged by the organizing host institution(s) to cover organizational costs, but not including travel and accommodation fees of the participants. The fee must be non-profit to the host.

## **Camp Topic and Thematic Focus**

In planning the camp, the hosting institution must propose a clearly defined topic that aligns with one of the key themes outlined in the Cumulus Design Declaration (please see: [LINK](#)). The topic should demonstrate relevance to the association's ongoing values and activities while addressing contemporary challenges in art, design, and media education and research.

The proposal should articulate how the chosen topic will be developed throughout the camp's program, including its connection to workshop activities, lectures, site visits, and expected learning outcomes. The hosting institution is encouraged to frame the topic in relation to local and regional contexts, creating meaningful bridges between global challenges and local opportunities. The topic should be engaging enough to attract diverse student participation while being specific enough to enable focused, productive work during the camp.

The organizer may welcome sponsor(s) whose values and activities align with the camp's thematic focus and Cumulus's mission.

## **Timing**

A camp can be held anytime during 2026. However, host institutions are strongly advised to carefully consider the scheduling of Cumulus's main initiatives when proposing camp dates. This includes, but is not limited to, the major Cumulus conferences and other significant association events. Avoiding date conflicts ensures maximum participation opportunities for students and faculty across the Cumulus network and prevents competing demands on the community's time and resources.

Proposed camp dates should be submitted as part of the application, and the Cumulus secretariat will provide guidance on any potential scheduling conflicts with planned association activities. Early coordination with the secretariat is recommended to secure optimal timing for the camp.

## **Camp Length and Format**

The ideal length is 5-7 days. The format is onsite, with workshops, site visits, lectures by host academics and invited speakers, etc. Online participation should be enabled within the camp program to some extent, if possible.

## **Selection of Students**

A minimum requirement is that 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 available resources. The proposal for hosting the Talent Camp should include a draft program around a specific topic and outline the roles of academics, staff, and other presenters during the camp program (e.g., from business, industry, or NGOs). It should highlight the relevance of the program and demonstrate the skills developed during the camp. If necessary, the camp program and its operations may be further developed with assistance from the Cumulus Executive Board and secretariat.

## **Host Responsibilities**

The host institution is responsible for advertising and registration of attendees, utilizing Cumulus social media channels and assisted by the Cumulus secretariat. Cumulus cannot additionally fund or fundraise for a Cumulus Talent Camp but may be able to support it by helping find 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.

## **Benefits**

Cumulus Student Camps add value to both participants and organizers. Participating students may be able to receive academic credit toward their degree from their home institution, subject to their institution's policies. Host institutions proposing and organizing the camp and its thematic do so under the Cumulus umbrella. We recommend choosing a current topic responding to the needs of the Planet, relating it to the Cumulus Design Declaration 2025—not limited to UN SDGs, but also including topics relevant to the host and its environment, city, region, country, or continent.

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

The outcomes and visuals of the camp are aimed to be exhibited during the following Cumulus conference and reported via Cumulus social channels. These media materials must be produced by the host. A publication/documentation

is produced as an outcome of the camp and made freely downloadable at the Cumulus website.

### **3. Key Ingredients of a Successful Cumulus Student Talent Camp**

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

#### **a. Embracing a 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 multidisciplinary and broad enough to resonate with the wide spectrum of interests among the members of the association.

#### **b. Rigorous Management of the Pedagogical Dimension of the Camp**

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

#### **c. 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 paramount to the experience of a good Cumulus Student Talent Camp. Find 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.

#### **d. Cultivating a Sense of Community**

The “open, friendly, and respectful atmosphere” of the Cumulus community is fundamental to camps organized under the Cumulus umbrella. Designing the camp program to allow participants to network and celebrate being together through sharing expertise, connecting over breaks, and participating together in local cultural or social events or field excursions is a very important part of a Cumulus Student Camp.

#### **e. Diversity, Access, and Inclusion**

Cumulus is committed to celebrating the diversity of its membership and expects that diversity to be reflected by camp hosts in key aspects of the programming of all camps (inclusive of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, etc.). The call encourages contributions from the CirroCumulus Student Working Group, and hosts may consider involving them in the camp programming.

## **4. Cumulus Student Talent Camp**

### **Requirements**

#### **More Operational**

All Cumulus hosts should plan for visual documentation, photography, and media capture (including social media) of the camp and obtain any necessary advance permissions from participants and speakers. Hosts must commit to transferring a curated set of visuals from the camp, with rights granted free of charge to the Cumulus secretariat for promotional and archival purposes. Camp 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 (visas, etc.) and ensure adequate spaces to accommodate workshops and meals, negotiate a diverse price range of accommodations (making them as affordable as possible when necessary), and arrange local transportation between accommodation and camp venue(s).

Each participant is responsible for their visa, travel insurance, and equivalent. Students are encouraged to pursue additional scholarships through their home institution. The host will provide a written report of the camp within one month

after the end of the camp. The outcomes are shared on the Cumulus website and media, and the host should be ready to present the outcomes during the upcoming 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 Executive Board**

Host institutions and their camp organizing teams coordinate and communicate closely with the Cumulus secretariat and the designated Executive Board member 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) and participant(s) waive 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 or 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 at its meeting after the submission deadline.

## **Application Content**

- 1 /** Host(s);
- 2 /** Topic—title and short introduction;

- 3 /** Maximum number of participants;
- 4 /** Time and confirmation deadline to participants;
- 5 /** Venue(s);
- 6 /** Housing information;
- 7 /** Organizing team;
- 8 /** A list of teachers and speakers (subject to update during the organizing period);
- 9 /** A website for marketing and reporting purposes;
- 10 /** Any other relevant information (sponsors, etc.);

## **Application deadline is 01/04/2026.**

Applications should be sent to [applications@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:applications@cumulusassociation.org); cc: [eija.salmi@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:eija.salmi@cumulusassociation.org) with the subject line "Cumulus Student Talent Camp Host Application."

## **Questions**

Any questions should be directed before the deadline via email to Eija Salmi at [eija.salmi@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:eija.salmi@cumulusassociation.org) with copy to Justyna Molik at [justyna.molik@cumulusassociation.org](mailto:justyna.molik@cumulusassociation.org).  
Check our website for information at [cumulusassociation.org](http://cumulusassociation.org).