

#CWGA26 #colourgenius26

COLOUR WORLD GENIUS AWARDS 2026



ENTRY PACK

WHO WILL BE NAMED A COLOUR GENIUS 2026?

IT COULD BE YOU! PROVE YOU ARE #COLOURTASTIC AND WIN A FABULOUS TROPHY!

We have 15 categories of Colour Genius including three where you submit a Reel or film. The judges will be an eminent panel of colourists, looking to reward exceptional and creative talent!

Each category is brand-neutral and open to colourists whatever brand of colour used

The winner of each category will receive a bespoke, engraved Colour World Genius Trophy. Winners will be announced at a special ceremony in London

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THE COLOUR CATEGORIES ARE:

- 1 PEOPLE'S CHOICE COLOUR GENIUS**
- 2 CREATIVE COLOUR GENIUS**
- 3 COLOUR CORRECTION GENIUS**
- 4 COMMERCIAL COLOUR GENIUS**
- 5 MINDFUL COLOUR GENIUS**
- 6 MEN'S COLOUR GENIUS**
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- 8 COLOUR COMMUNICATOR GENIUS**
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1

PEOPLE'S CHOICE COLOUR GENIUS

Make a Reel of a colour process for us to post on @colourworlduk instagram. The Reels with the most views by closing date, will be our finalists. The jury will then review your most recent posts and decide the winner.

We are looking for an exciting, inspirational and clever colourist. Someone who knows how to work social media to show off their colour skills

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro and a model of any gender

How to enter:

- Create an Instagram Reel. Can be up to 90 seconds long, showing the step-by-step colour transformation of your choice and save it to your camera roll
- Must include Before & After image as well as show the process
- Submit your Reel on www.colourworlduk.com
- Your Reel will be posted on @colourworlduk Instagram by us
- It is then for you to create buzz on your Reel from @colourworlduk Instagram and share it to get the most plays
- The top 6 most-played Reels on 27th April 2026 will go through to the second round. The judges will visit your IG account to decide the most consumer friendly.
- A panel of industry judges will choose the winner from the 6 finalists
- Any attempt to fiddle the numbers will be spotted by our insights tools and you risk being disqualified
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

All entries must adhere to the Colour Genius rules & regulations as listed on page 19

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2 CREATIVE COLOUR GENIUS

This will be awarded for the most bold, striking or adventurous colour look on a live model.

We are looking for someone who is brave in their use of colour to produce an attractive, show-stopping result. Someone who follows the trends and will show some fashion forward colour work. Don't be shy!

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 6 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Your look must be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner

- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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COLOUR CORRECTION GENIUS

Awarded to the most accomplished colour correction work on a live model submitted by a colourist of 3+ years experience.

You'll need to show you can assess colour and make corrections for a tasteful transformation your client will love

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. Plus a photograph of the profile view and the back of the head - ie 3 photographs in total. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Add a description of the issues tackled and a list of products applied, plus a timeline (can be in list form)
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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COMMERCIAL COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who has their finger on the trend-pulse and delivers a fabulous commercial colour look on a live model.

We are looking for someone who can produce accessible yet head-turning colour reflective of current trends

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. Also a photograph showing either a face or profile so we can see suitability of the colour for the skintone of the client. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.
To check the size on your Smartphone do this:
 - i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
 - ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here
- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Add a description of the technique used eg Balayage, two-tone, root smudge, ombre... and why you think this suits the model
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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MINDFUL COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the salon owner or manager who shows how they sustainably manage their colour business.

Whether on show or behind the scenes, wow us with the way you operate your colour service

Who can enter:

Any salon owner or manager with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial way as a salon-based or freelance hairdresser, or a company hosting a co-working space. You must work with colourists/consumers in a publically accessed environment eg salon, home salon or co-working space.

How to enter:

- Tell us how you run your colour bar business:
 - a) what you do day-to-day to be more mindful
 - b) how you try to inform and influence changes
 - c) what have you achieved so far and next steps
(up to 1000 words max in each section)
- Send up to 8 photographs to support your entry
- Tell us what you think is special or individual or innovative about your colour business?
- You may work with any colour brands
- It's not the size that counts, but the imagination and business acumen and awareness of environmental issues that will count
- Your photographs can be up to 3 years old on our closing date 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will select the finalists. A different panel will choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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MEN'S COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who most impresses with colour work on a male model.

It's time to showcase how important colour is to the male client – whether to totally transform a look, enhance a cut, or blend out grey – demonstrate your talent and your eye for following trends

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. Also a photograph showing profile or front view of the look so we can assess suitability for the client. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Your look must be on a live, male model or model who identifies as male
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner

- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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#COLOURTASTIC GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who submits the best short film explaining why they are a colour genius for 2026. Show us your passion – make a film that sums up how you live and breathe colour. At home, at work, at play... everywhere!

Look at the previous winners for inspo, but do add your own personality, signature style and energy in to your film. There's no one way to do this – our #colourtastic genius will make their individuality stand out

The brief:

Entrants must send a short film of 90 seconds max including:

- a) show us your colour work in the salon
- b) show us your studio pix if you have them
- c) tell us on camera why you are colour obsessed?
- d) explain any shows or training you attend or have been part of
- e) what is your colour ambition.. what do you dream of achieving?
- f) invite other people to join in telling us about your passion and devotion to colour!

Who can enter:

Open to any colourist with 6 years or more experience working in a commercial environment for a salon or as a freelance working directly with consumers. You can showcase work with live models or doll heads, and on any hair type

How to enter:

Visit our site www.colourworlduk.com and complete our online entry form and upload your film. Remember:

- A short film of no more than 90 seconds
- Filmed 'landscape' please
- Filming on a Smart phone is great - just check your sound is loud
- Your film must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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All entries must adhere to the Colour Genius rules & regulations as listed on page 19

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COLOUR COMMUNICATOR GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who persuades us they are the best at sharing their colour know-how, ideas and passion with the industry and beyond.

Are you a great educator? Do you train the best colour team? Do you run a great social media platform sharing your know-how and love of colour? Perhaps you inspire with IG Lives, YouTube films and other ways of reaching out? We are searching for the people who communicate colour the best!

The brief:

Entrants must submit a short film made on their Smartphone perhaps. Keep to 90 seconds or less. Talk about your work, show examples, explain how you quantify success with feedback or engagement. Tell us your proudest achievements and your most successful. It's up to you to persuade us you really can talk colour with enthusiasm and expertise.

Who can enter:

Open to any colourist with 6 years or more recent experience covering working as a colourist in a commercial or an educational environment. You can be academy or college based.

How to enter:

Visit our site www.colourworlduk.com and complete our online entry form and upload your film. Remember:

- A short film of no more than 90 seconds
- Filmed 'landscape' please
- Filming on a Smart phone is acceptable
- Your film must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
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AFRO COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who demonstrates professional skills with their work on Afro hair in particular. Show us how you have an eye for enhancing shape, texture and line with a head-turning look. Consumer or avant-garde – it's up to you.

This is a category dedicated to promoting the beauty of applying colour to Black hair specifically. You can use any colour product to achieve the best look possible. We require you to ensure your model – of any gender – has naturally curly, coily hair of Afro heritage. You may work on wigs or hairpieces as long as they comprise less than 50% of your work – and you must declare you've done this. We want you to celebrate Black hair so don't be shy.

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. And your entry must be on Afro hair with a natural curly coily texture

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You must work with an Afro hair type
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner

- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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10 INTERNATIONAL COLOUR GENIUS

We see brilliant work on socials, so come on and send us your best looks to compete for the title International Colour Genius 2026!

We're keen to see 3 images that profile your colour work. They can be studio or salon images, and include up to 2 models in each image. They can be a collection or taken from 3 different occasions. Avant-garde or commercial, it's up to you!

Who can enter:

This category is for anyone not based in the UK for work. You must have 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers. By entering you are confirming this and therefore cannot enter any other category

How to enter:

- Send 3 head and shoulders finished look. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.
To check the size on your Smartphone do this:
 - i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
 - ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here
- Your looks must be on live models. They can be any hair type and the model can be any gender
- Your looks will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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COLOUR EDUCATOR GENIUS

Awarded to the educator who impresses us with the way they teach colour.

You'll need to show us how you're a stand-out educator on colour techniques. Whether you focus on a particular aspect of colour work, or more broadly educate, and whether you are working with students or award-winners, we're interested!

In a written entry please tell us how you deliver education, what you believe your USP ie what makes you special. Who you work with, and how you promote your courses

Who can enter:

Any colour educator with 1 or more years' experience in teaching colour. You must work directly with hairdressers whatever stage they are at

How to enter:

- Write a statement on the types of education you deliver; and do you teach in-person or online?
Who are your courses for and what is your USP?
- You can refer to your experience over years, but you MUST include examples of education delivered in the past 12 months (ie since 12th April 2025). It will help you to get the judges attention if you do refer to recent work. We're looking for between 500 and 1000 words max.
- You may upload supporting imagery i.e photos of your work, testimonials.
Photos must be 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- Your photographs may be up to three years old
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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12 STUDENT COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the student who shows us the most successful colour applications (can be daring but must always be well applied).

We want to see some serious colour skills from colourists of the future.
Show us your best transformation

Who can enter:

Anyone currently enrolled on an NVQ2 or NVQ3 course. Can be studying as an apprentice or full-time college student. NB we are not looking branded or degree level courses in this category

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Add a description of the issues tackled and a list of products applied, plus a timeline (can be in list form)
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner

- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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13 COLOUR COLLABORATOR GENIUS

Awarded to a colourist working specifically on colour as part of an artistic or creative team. A Colour Collaborator has the vision to create a colour that works perfectly with someone else's cut and style. Our point is to reward a team player who brings the colour magic to make the entire group effort really pop and sing!

Editorial, session, an awards collection or team shoot, we want professional photography that shows off your colour work. Use tear sheets, or a collection. It's up to you.

Team work makes the dream work. If you've bossed the colour on a team project then show us

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work have worked in a team on a project and have permission to put your name to colour work.

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size.
To check the size on your Smartphone do this:
 - i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
 - ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here
- Add a description of the issues tackled and a list of products applied, plus a timeline (can be in list form)
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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14 BLONDING COLOUR GENIUS

Awarded to the colourist who can show us the most impressive blonde on a live model.

You'll need to show you can assess the hair's condition to create a clean blonde

Who can enter:

Any colourist with 3 years or more experience working in a commercial environment as a salon based, or a freelance hairdresser. You must work directly with consumers.

And your entry can be on any hair type including Afro.

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. Also a photograph showing profile or front view of the look so we can assess suitability for the client. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size..

To check the size on your Smartphone do this:

- i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
- ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here

- A 'before' image will be required which must also be in colour and demonstrate clearly the colour and condition of hair pre-colour application. Judges will take this look into account
- Add a description of how you achieved this and a list of products applied, plus a timeline (can be in list form)
- Your look may be on a live model of any gender
- You may work with any hair type including Afro
- Your look will be judged on grounds of suitability, taste and technical ability
- Your photographs must be made since 12th April 2025 and no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner

- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

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15 NEW TALENT COLOUR GENIUS

**Awarded to a recently qualified colourist (under 3 years)
who WOWs us with their colour work.**

Up & coming colourists this is for you. If you're passionate about colour and qualified in the past 3 years, we want to see your most striking work

Who can enter:

Any colourist who qualified since 1st April 2023

How to enter:

- Send a head and shoulders finished look. No retouching allowed. Your photo must be between 3-7mb in size
To check the size on your Smartphone do this:
 - i) Android users, simply swipe up on the photo and you'll see size details
 - ii) IOS users (iPhone), save your photo in the Files app, then visit the app to check size here
- Your photographs must be made since 1st April 2023... ie since you qualified.
- A panel of industry judges will choose the finalist, who will then proceed to the second round. A different panel of judges comprising hairdressers and media professionals will then choose the winner
- The winner will be announced at the Genius Awards ceremony this summer

All entries must adhere to the Colour Genius rules & regulations as listed on page 19

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RULES & REGULATIONS

Colour World UK and the Colour World Genius Awards are owned by IHAA Ltd. All references to Colour World UK and Colour World Genius Awards implicitly refer to IHAA Ltd

- The competition is open to all UK residents aged 16 and over. As part of your entry, you will need to provide a current UK address and agree that you work in the UK on average more than 40 weeks a year
- Your entry will not be complete and accepted until the requisite fee per entry is received
- The exception is for the category International Colour Genius when non-UK residents may enter
- The competition opens on 19th January 2026 and closes at midnight on 13th April 2026
- Colour World UK reserves the right to revise this date and extend the period for accepting entries to the competition in the event of circumstances arising beyond its reasonable control
- Late entries will not be permitted
- Entries must be uploaded via www.colourworlduk.com (entries delivered by other means will NOT be allowed in to the competition)
- Entry to the Colour World Genius Awards is subject to the correct fees being received. The fee is £15 per entry and is non-refundable
- Entrants may enter the same picture for more than one award category should it fit the brief of that category
- The colourist's full name must be confirmed on the entry form and must remain the same throughout the competition
- Only one name can be applied to each entry as responsible for the colour work. You may credit other members of the team eg photographer, MUA and stylist
- You must be a fully-qualified hairdresser to enter the Colour World Genius Awards, with the exception of the Student category. This means that you need to have completed an NVQ or apprenticeship, which certifies you as a fully-qualified professional. If challenged: you must be prepared to confirm your qualification status; you may be asked for proof of ID, such as passport or driver's license to verify your name and age; you may be asked to provide your employment history to verify your experience
The above rule does not apply to the following categories:
Student Colour Genius, Mindful Colour Genius
- Should an entrant be successful after a photographic entry stage, and go through to the final stage, the same entry/photograph will be used in the final judging
- Entrants must guarantee the work submitted, by photograph or film, is their own and they have the right to submit it to this competition, and that IHAA Ltd, as owner of the Colour World Genius Awards, has the right to publish this work in print or digitally. Specifically... Entrants grant Colour World UK/IHAA Ltd with a transferable, exclusive, worldwide, royalty free and perpetual license in all copyright, moral or other rights under the Copyright, Design and Patents Act 1988 to use the photos and any materials, videos and images generated during the Colour World Genius Awards competition (whether they proceed to the final or not) for any purpose whatsoever (including without limitation, use on IHAA Ltd websites, Facebook pages and blogs, promotion of the Colour World Genius Awards, PR content in print and online, editorial, advertising and advertorial content, trade press and competition promotion in print and online and educational or internal purposes, etc.)
- Trophies are awarded to the individual winner of each category with the exception of Colour Collaborator if the entry is made by a team
- The prize is a trophy and there are no alternatives or cash substitutes
- If an entrant enters the Colour World Genius Awards in the name of a salon or art team they must gain consent from the owner to enter the competition
- The winners must be prepared to take part in publicity accompanying or resulting from the competition. No additional compensation will be awarded for such promotional activities
- The judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding any decisions
- At its sole discretion, IHAA Ltd may decide to allow the individual to publish their images on social media. Any images supplied by IHAA Ltd must always be credited to Colour World Genius Awards when being used for any purpose whatsoever

- If the prize is declined or if the winner forfeits the prize under these terms and conditions, then the judges may at their absolute discretion select an alternative winner
- IHAA Ltd reserves the right in its absolute discretion to add to or waive any of these terms and conditions, or to cancel the awards at any stage, in the event of circumstances arising beyond its reasonable control
- By entering this competition, entrants will be deemed to be bound by and have accepted these terms and conditions
- In the event that the registration for participation should contain personal data, the participant simultaneously communicates his or her consent that such data will be stored and electronically processed by IHAA and affiliated IHAA companies. Forwarding of such data to third parties shall be explicitly excluded.

All Awards comprise of two stages: photographic, film or nomination stage; and final judging stage

PHOTOGRAPHIC/FILM/NOMINATION ENTRY STAGE

- Entries must be received on or before midnight on 13th April 2026
- Entrants must submit their entry through www.colourworlduk.com**
- Entrants must upload their entry photos which must be:
 - minimum 3mb and maximum 7mb – if you are uploading photos from a smartphone you can check the size this way:
 - Android users, simply swipe up on the photo you would like to upload
 - IOS users (iPhones), save your photo in the Files app, open the app and check the size;
 - in colour
 - in jpeg format only
 - a photograph or film made since 12th April 2025 ie no more than 12 months old on our closing date of 13th April 2026
- The photograph must show maximum ¾ length view of models, and include head and shoulders primarily
- Photographs and film must be in full colour
- Re-touching minor skin or hair imperfections is allowed unless stated in the category requirements. Extreme re-touching work will be taken into account by the judges
- Entries will only be accepted if they are uploaded onto the official website www.colourworlduk.com with the fully completed entry form. Incomplete, illegal, misdirected or late entries will not be valid. Proof of complying with these requirements will not be accepted as proof of receipt or entry. The correct fee must also be received, ie £15 per entry. Responsibility cannot be accepted for lost, damaged or delayed entries due to technical or connectivity problems or otherwise
- A list of the finalists for each category will then be available on www.colourworlduk.com from Tuesday 19th May.

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR ALL STAGES

- The photographic entries will be judged by a panel of colourists and brands invited by Colour World UK
- The photographs submitted must showcase the entrant's interpretation of the brief
- Each photograph will be judged as described in the category brief
- Wefts, weaves and extensions covering a maximum 20% of the head can be used providing they have been coloured by the entrant
- The requirements for a successful entry will include:
 - Cut and colour that complement each other and work in harmony
 - You do not need to use professional models. You should still keep your looks suitable for the face shape and skin tone
 - Make-up and clothes styling that complement the overall look, working in synergy with the hairstyle showing the highest level of craftsmanship
- The judges' decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entrants have no right to legal recourse.

ANY FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE RULES & REGULATIONS WILL RENDER A COMPETITOR LIABLE FOR DISQUALIFICATION.

KEY DATES

ENTRIES OPEN:
MONDAY 19TH JANUARY 2026

ENTRIES CLOSE:
MONDAY 13TH APRIL 2026

JUDGING TAKES PLACE:
APRIL/MAY 2026

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED:
MONDAY 18TH MAY 2026

AWARDS PARTY:
MONDAY 22ND JUNE 2026

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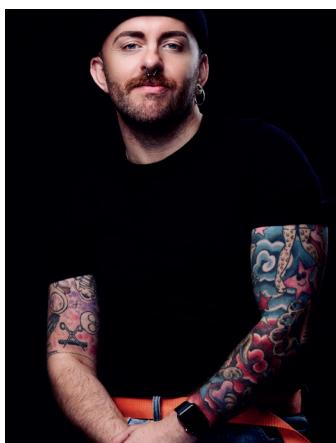


WINNING WAYS!

Help yourself to a Colour Genius trophy with advice and inspiration from looking at what the judges have liked in previous years. Consider working on any hair type including Afro. Our winners should be competent in presenting colour accessible to all clients:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE COLOUR GENIUS

This category is about appealing to IG viewers; enter a Reel of colour work and the 6 with the most likes will be assessed on their IG account latest posts by judges. The past winners have included:



2024 – Casey Coleman



2025 – Casey Coleman

COLOUR CORRECTION GENIUS

The key here is the word 'correction', and to show in photographs and explain in words how you've executed the service looking at the condition and colour of the hair; think about the results root to tip.



2024 – Ieva Poce



2025 – Kirby Brewer



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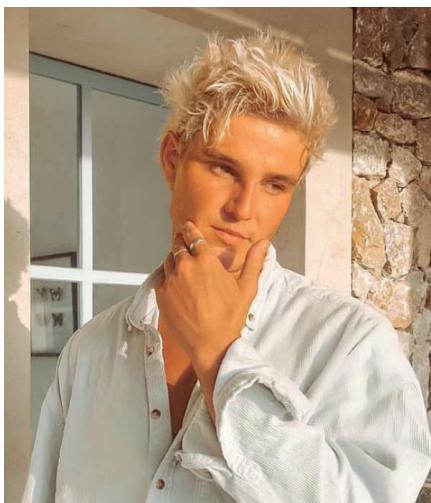
Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk



WINNING WAYS!

MEN'S COLOUR GENIUS

Judges need to see colour on a male head that complements the man's appearance and shows off your colour skills. Consider the overall image you submit, including suitability for that person.



2024 – Dylan McConnachie



2025 – Dylan McConnachie

COMMERCIAL COLOUR GENIUS

This category is about working with the 'everyday' client. Your entry must be eminently wearable and yet individual in some way. Reflect on popular looks, the most-asked for colour techniques, and then show how you do them best.



2024 – Dean Lawton Taylor



2025 – Jamie Richards

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk

WINNING WAYS!

CREATIVE COLOUR GENIUS

The judges: Strong and eye-catching yes, but also tasteful and suitable for the model please!
For 2026, we're requesting live models only.



2024 – Suzie McGill



2025 – Emanuele Temperini

#COLOURTASTIC GENIUS

Every colourist we know is passionate about colour – that's a given. But can you explain how you live and breathe colour? Make a short film (max 90 seconds) that conveys your energy, your work, what makes your colourful heart beat fast! From salon to studio, seminar to stage work, ensure you include plenty of hair on your film. Can you take the title for 2026?



2024 – Vanessa Koeb



2025 – Lloyd Court

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk



WINNING WAYS!

COLOUR COMMUNICATOR GENIUS

We look for the colourist who shares effectively. Training, collaborating, educating,... demonstrate in a short 90 second film how you communicate your love for colour and inspire others to learn, too.

NB your film doesn't need to be professionally made. Use a Smart phone and an editing app to put clips together. Add a soundtrack or narrate yourself – it's fun and useful to be able to make promotional films.



2024 – Tom Smith



2025 – Charlotte Cave

AFRO COLOUR GENIUS

Joining the drive to make hairdressing UK more inclusive and celebrate all hair types, last year we introduced the Afro Colour Genius category. Working on specifically Black/Afro hair, we asked for a striking, beautifully executed colour. our previous winners have been so cool... how will you do in 2026?



2024 – Anne Veck



2025 – Lisa Farrall

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk

WINNING WAYS!

INTERNATIONAL COLOUR GENIUS

The hairdressing world is getting smaller and we love how the global community shares and inspires. It's only right that we invite International colourists to get involved. Where will the 2026 International Colour Genius be based?



2024 – Kristie Kesic



2025 – Kasper Thomas

MINDFUL COLOUR GENIUS

As we see a rise in salons putting sustainability at the forefront, we want to celebrate the advocates. Shout about your journey to becoming a more mindful salon.

New in 2024, who will be our next Mindful Colour Genius will be?



2024 – Gina Conway,
Gina Conway Salon & Spa



2025 – Oliver Blackaby

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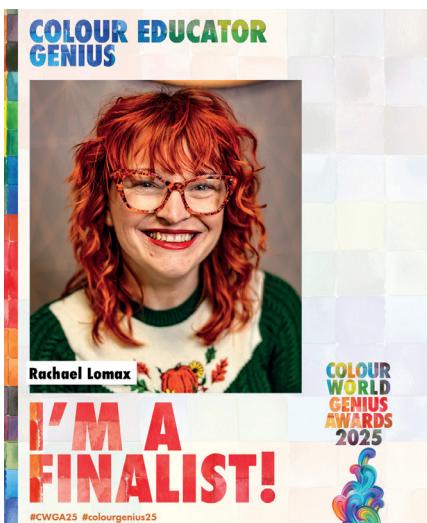
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WINNING WAYS!

COLOUR EDUCATOR GENIUS

Education is key, especially when it comes to colour. We're championing the ones that impress us with the way they teach colour.



2025 – Rachael Lomax

STUDENT COLOUR GENIUS

Yes, we're looking at every level of colourist. This is for the ones who don't yet hold their qualifications. We ask students to show us their best transformations.



2025 – Lucia Burton-Cree

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk

WINNING WAYS!

COLOUR COLLABORATION GENIUS

The ones with a colour vision! Working on editorial and/or session projects to nail a colour that complements someone else's cut and style.



2025 – Seung Ki Baek

BLONDING COLOUR GENIUS

They say blondes have more fun... So let's hear it for the blonding specialists out there. We're championing the colourists behind clean, damage-free blondes.



2025 – Tracey Ann Smith

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk

WINNING WAYS!

NEW TALENT COLOUR GENIUS

These are our ones to watch. With 3 years or less on the salon floor these are the up and coming colourists who have wow'd us with their work.



2025 – Amelia Krazinski

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Get to it! Any questions, email us: awards@ihaa.co.uk