2020 Entry Guidelines

A word from the Chair of Judges

The ARIAs are now in their fourth year and are clearly going from strength to strength.

The quality of entries continues to rise - not least because new ways of creating and distributing audio content means a wider range of voices is being heard on broadcast platforms, both analogue and now increasingly digital, and on smartphones, smart speakers and other connected devices.

Over 200 separate companies or individual producers entered these awards last year, and we expect that number to rise too.

On behalf of the Academy I'd like to thank all of the judges who give so generously of their time. And on behalf of the judges I'd like to thank all of you who enter, for creating the audio and radio we enjoy listening to so much, and making the process such a pleasure to participate in.

Good luck!

Phil Riley

General Information

Please read the following information carefully before entering. It contains some important changes from last year's entry requirements.

Qualifying Period

The qualifying period from which entered material (audio, video & online content) may be drawn is: 1st July 2018 to 30th September 2019. All entries must have been broadcast or first published within these dates.

Audio Requirements

Please read these carefully, as these have changed. These audio requirements are identical for all categories:

- The maximum length of audio is 15 minutes.

- Audio can be either a continuous 15-minute excerpt from an individual show, or a 15-minute compilation of extracts. In all categories, it's up to you.

- If the submission is a compilation, this should be of no more than ten unedited extracts from the show, but these can be taken from multiple editions of the show.

- The only exception to this rule is for the Breakfast Show categories (4 and 9) where extracts must be taken from a single edition of the show, broadcast on the date specified by the Radio Academy.

- In the interests of creating a standardised, level-playing field for entries, compilations should always be a simple playlist of unedited extracts, faded in and out from a moment of silence. Please do not use station imaging or FX to montage the extracts, as these can be confused for broadcast material.

- Extracts in the compilation should be pure editorial – recorded music, adverts and trails should be faded in and out.
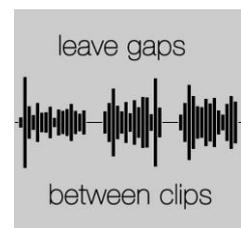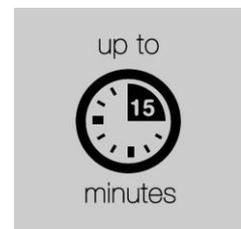
Videos and other supporting material

If your category invites you to submit additional material, please note:

- Please stick to the word limits. The system will truncate your text.
- If you submit a video, please note that only the first 2 minutes will be watched.
- If you're submitting supporting content URLs, do not send links to audio or video, or to material that requires a login.

Breakfast Show dates

For the Breakfast Show categories (4 and 9) the Radio Academy has selected a specific date (or nearest weekend show, if applicable) that extracts must be taken from, and two backup dates that may be used under very specific circumstances.

• The **main date, Date 1 - Thursday 12th September 2019** - MUST be used if the regular team were presenting on that date.

• The **backup date, Date 2 - Thursday 5th September 2019** - should only be used if the regular team were absent on Date 1.

• The **final backup date, Date 3 - Thursday 29th August 2019** - should only be used in extremis, if the regular team were absent on both Dates 1 and 2.

You will be asked to provide written confirmation if you are forced to use dates 2 or 3. No other dates are allowable for these categories, in order that meaningful and fair comparisons of competing breakfast shows can be made.

Station of the Year categories

For Station of the Year categories (21 and 22):

- A National Station is an Ofcom-licensed station that broadcasts either via AM/FM/DAB to a substantial proportion of the UK (over 60%).

- A National Network is a collection of local stations that share a common listener brand, a substantial proportion of their output (over 60% in a typical week), and which collectively via AM/FM/DAB (or via a national DAB sustaining service) cover over 60% of the UK. Stations in a network are not eligible to enter The John Myers Award (category 21).

- The John Myers Award for Local Station of the Year (category 21) is open to Ofcom-licensed stations which broadcast to a specific geographical area which is less than 60% of the UK.

- Local stations which are affiliated to a brand, but which are under separate ownership to the brand itself and its network infrastructure, are not eligible to enter National/Network station (category 22) but are eligible to enter The John Myers Award (category 21).

Paired categories

Certain categories have been "paired". These are clearly referenced in the rubrics and are usually two or three categories next to each other within the category listings.

This means the same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in both of the paired categories. Different content (or different editions of the same programme or series) can however be entered.

Other Notes

In addition to the pairing restrictions, no single piece of audio (or substantially similar piece of audio) can be entered for more than two awards in total, and any similar entries from an individual station/show or series gaining short-list status in more than two categories will be checked for compliance.

Entries are welcome from across the radio and audio sector in all categories (including podcasts), except for certain restrictions in categories 14, 20, 21 and 22 that are highlighted in the rubrics.

ARIAs 2020 Categories

1	Best New Presenter
2	Best New Show
3	Best News Coverage
4	Best Speech Breakfast Show
5	Best Speech Presenter
6	Best Sports Show
7	Best Coverage of an Event
8	Funniest Show
9	Best Music Breakfast Show
10	Best Music Presenter
11	Best Specialist Music Show
12	Best Factual – Single Programme
13	Best Factual – Series
14	Best Independent Podcast
15	Best Fictional Storytelling
16	Best Station Sound
17	Best Commercial Promotion
18	Best Marketing Campaign
19	Best Community Programme

20	Best Local Radio Show
21	The John Myers Award for Best Local Station of the Year
22	National Station or Network of the Year
23	Moment of the Year – voted by the general public

NB. Award numbers are for reference purposes only, and do not indicate show running order

1. Best New Presenter

Category rubric:

This award celebrates an individual presenter who represents an important new voice in radio/audio.

The judges will be looking for an outstanding new talent who dazzles with an unmatched combination of charisma, passion for the medium, determination to exploit its possibilities to their utmost potential, love for their audience and enthusiasm for the particular kind of show they present.

Whilst entrants may have made occasional appearances over recent years, their overall experience and radio exposure should not have been significant prior to this entry, and their true breakthrough <u>must</u> have occurred during the qualifying period. Details of this should be clearly set out in the supporting statement.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best New Show.

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the presenter, programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

2. Best New Show

Category rubric:

This award is for the very best new show or podcast. Entries may be completely new shows or a complete refresh of an existing show.

The judges will be looking for a level of innovation and fresh thinking either creating a brand-new programme or revolutionising an existing format. The winner will be a show/podcast whose undisputed brilliance has caused a buzz throughout the year, making others wish they had thought of it first!

This award is for the best brand-new show/podcast that launched during the qualifying period. This entry can be any new show on any audio platform. The entry must have been part of a series or regular programming with at least 6 individual episodes. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best New Presenter.

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme, target audience and the process of innovation that led to its creation

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

3. Best News Coverage

Category rubric:

This award recognises outstanding journalism. Submissions can include coverage of breaking news stories, ongoing coverage of news events, extended news bulletins, original journalism, either of an individual story or as a portfolio of work over the period, or a deeper investigation into a news story. Standalone news programmes and news sequences within programmes are also eligible.

Judges will be looking for entries that make sense of the news. Entries that deliver the very best journalism, told robustly, with authority and creativity. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Speech Breakfast Show, and Best Speech Presenter.

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

4. Best Speech Breakfast Show

Category rubric:

This award celebrates the best of speech-based weekday or weekend breakfast shows. Qualifying shows will need to demonstrate an overall editorial output that is typically at least 50% speech based.

The judges will be looking at every aspect of production and presentation to find a show that constantly creates unforgettable audio/radio moments, stopping listeners in their tracks and leaving them talking about the show (in person and online) for the rest of the day.

Content should be unexpected, stimulating, surprising, informative and magnetically engaging, and may even be provocative or emotionally charged on occasion.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any linear platform that broadcasts programmes at breakfast time.

Paired with:

Best News Coverage, and Best Speech Presenter.

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation from a single show on date specified by Radio Academy (see general notes at the start of this guide)
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience (which must clearly state the typical percentage of speech-based content in the full-length editions of the programme)

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

5. Best Speech Presenter

Category rubric:

This award celebrates presenter(s) who predominantly host speech-based shows (including broadcast radio and streamed and podcast audio). Qualifying entries will need to demonstrate an overall editorial output that is typically at least 50% speech-based.

The judges will be looking for someone who has range and depth, who regularly creates gripping audio, who has a natural way with conversation that effortlessly draws the audience in, and which may include the ability to conduct interviews that reveal something new through questions that others would never think to ask. Entries can be from any platform.

Judges would not normally expect to see presenters known for their work at breakfast entered in this category. However, where presenters have broadened their output beyond breakfasts, a portfolio audio compilation entry, representing the full range of their work, including their breakfast output, can be submitted.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Speech Breakfast Show, and Best News Coverage.

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience (which must clearly state the typical percentage of speech-based content in the full-length editions of the programme)

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

6. Best Sports Show

Category rubric:

This award is for a regularly scheduled show or one-off programme or podcast that really knows how to draw listeners in to the sporting world. This may be through the power of commentary, analysis, conversation, interactivity or covering sport in its broadest context.

The judges will be looking for creativity, highly skilled, knowledgeable presenter(s) and a programme that captivates, entertains and delivers for their audience.

Any special one-off sporting event coverage could instead be entered in Best Coverage of an Event (category 7). A regular scheduled show or podcast means at least 6 individual episodes. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Coverage of an Event

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

7. Best Coverage of an Event

Category rubric:

This category is for the creative and clever coverage of a pre-planned and organized event. Typical examples might include a music concert, a state occasion or a sporting event. Coverage of news events and their immediate aftermath is specifically excluded from this category – although coverage of planned events in response to a news story will be allowed.

Judges will be looking at the way in which entrants have used audio techniques to convey the sense of occasion, bringing the event to their listeners.   Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Sports Show

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the event and its impact
- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

8. Funniest Show

Category rubric:

This award is for regular shows or one-off programmes, including comedy, quiz or other entertainment programming, on any platform, that makes listeners smile or laugh out loud.

Judges will be looking at both the individual elements of shows and the way in which those parts combine to form the whole to amuse and entertain.

Regular shows are defined as having at least 4 individual episodes. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Music Breakfast Show

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) cannot be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

9. Best Music Breakfast Show

Category rubric:

This award recognises outstanding music-based weekday or weekend breakfast shows. Qualifying shows will need to demonstrate an editorial output that is at least 40% music.

The judges will be looking at every aspect of production and presentation to find a show that's 'the complete package'. This will include infectious enthusiasm from the host(s) and innovative features and interaction. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any linear platform that broadcasts programmes at breakfast time.

Paired with:

Funniest Show

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation from a single show on date specified by Radio Academy (see notes)
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience (which must clearly state the typical percentage of music in full-length editions of the programme)

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

10. Best Music Presenter

Category rubric:

This award recognises this year's most outstanding DJ/presenter of a music radio series or one-off programme

The judges will be looking for someone whose passion for music shines out as they intersperse the tracks they play with moments of pure entertainment, demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of their subject. Entries can be from any platform.

Judges would not normally expect to see presenters known for their work at breakfast entered in this category. However, where presenters have broadened their output beyond breakfasts, a portfolio audio compilation entry, representing the full range of their work, including their breakfast output, can be submitted.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Specialist Music Show

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published
  (first 2mins will be watched)

11. Best Specialist Music Show

Category rubric:

This award will celebrate a show that lives, breathes, eats and sleeps the music to which it is devoted.

The judges will be looking at every aspect of the production and presentation to find evidence of an incredibly in-depth knowledge of the genre and a never-ending quest to bring that music to the audience in new ways on any platform. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Music Presenter

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

12. Best Factual Single Programme

Category rubric:

This award will honour a one-off documentary which takes factual storytelling to a new level.

The judges will be looking for a combination of utterly compelling audio, remarkable access to untold stories (or untold aspects of familiar events) and beautifully-crafted narrative structure which transports the listeners into the heart of a story, giving them the sense that they're living through the action as it unfolds, moving from one location to the next as eye-witnesses to events.

The winning programme will have the ability to captivate listeners, keeping them gripped to the very last second by the need to know how the story ends. Entries can be from any platform.

A single programme is defined as being a complete factual story, entirely contained within one episode. Individual episodes from anthology documentary strands may be entered in this category, providing each episode is narratively self-contained. Do not enter an individual 'favourite episode' from a narrative documentary series in this category.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Factual Series and Best Podcast

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

13. Best Factual Series

Category rubric:

This award will honour a documentary series which takes factual storytelling to a new level.

The judges will be looking for a combination of utterly compelling audio, remarkable access to untold stories (or untold aspects of familiar events) and beautifully-crafted multi-episode narrative structure which transports the listeners into the heart of a story, giving them the sense that they're living through the action as it unfolds, moving from one location to the next as eyewitnesses to events.

The winning series will have the ability to captivate listeners, keeping them gripped to the very last second by the need to know how the story ends. It will take advantage of the multi-episode format, to build suspense, structure the narrative and harness the power of long form. Entries can be from any platform.

A series is defined as being a factual story told over two or more episodes, regardless of how they are scheduled or released. Entire anthology documentary strands should not be entered into this category.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Factual Single Programme and Best Podcast

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

14. Best Independent Podcast

Category rubric:

This award celebrates single audio shows or series created by independent podcasters (or non-broadcasters) for online distribution.

Judges will be looking for podcasts that take full advantage of the medium, that are so fresh, funny, informative, entertaining or outrageous that they always leave listeners impatient for the next episode? Important factors will include creativity in both the theme/concept for the series, as well as for the features, content and production within each show, and the way in which the podcast engages its target audience.

Eligible platforms:

That category is for independent podcasters only.

This category should not be used to enter broadcast radio content which is later made available in podcast form.

Any podcasts produced or commissioned by a terrestrial licence holder, whether or not they are intended for later broadcast, are also not eligible for this particular category (although they are eligible elsewhere).

Paired with:

Best Factual Series and Best Factual Single Programme

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience
- Link to the podcast's webpage

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

15. Best Fictional Storytelling

Category rubric:

This award pays tribute to the audio drama, podcast or audiobook that best transported its audience to the heart of the action, immersing listeners in an unforgettable experience that lingers long in the memory.

The judges will be looking for the perfect combination of stunning performances, expertly edited scripts and flawless sound design that draws listeners into the story being told. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Not paired with any other awards

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

16. Best Station Sound

Category rubric:

This category is designed to recognise creative excellence in either a single execution or a campaign of editorial and promos/trailers that promote the station itself, a charity event, a community project or a promotion on behalf of a third-party client.

Judges will consider how well the audio communicates the station image, or a campaign's objectives, rewarding promotions that demonstrate outstanding creativity, innovation and impact on the audience. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Commercial Promotion

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

17. Best Commercial Promotion

Category rubric:

This category recognises excellence in paid-for promotional, sponsored or brand-funded programming or creative partnerships. Entries should be from a single campaign/partnership and can include both audio and activity that stretches beyond the broadcast, for example social media.

Judges will be looking to reward entries that include compelling content and successfully address the needs or interests of the brand/partnership as well as the expectations of the audience. Entries can be from any platform.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Station Sound

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

18. Best Marketing Campaign

Category rubric:

This award recognises a creative marketing campaign that has excelled. The campaign might promote a programme, a podcast, a radio station, a network that has developed from a collection of individual stations with a more consistent output, a national radio station or a brand.

The judges will want to see the reflection of that campaign on-air and will want to reward the station or publisher that has a clear resonance between its programming, marketing and positioning.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Not paired with any other awards

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the campaign and its impact
- A full package of any off-air marketing creative and collateral
  (online links to TV ads, live events, posters, print media, social media etc)

19. Best Community Programming

Category rubric:

This category is for any community-driven, grassroots, social action initiative, campaign, programme or series that engages their audience in a positive, community-focused way.

The judges will be seeking to reward compelling and powerful programming that has made an impact in, for example, fundraising, heightening public awareness and understanding of an issue, and/or inspiring change within a community.

Eligible platforms:

Entries can be from any platform.

Paired with:

Best Local Radio Show and The John Myers Award for Local Station of the Year

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

20. Best Local Radio Show

Category rubric:

This award is for the very best show hosted on a BBC, Commercial or Community licensed local radio station.

Judges will be looking for more than just local news and place name mentions - they'll be expecting to feel a sense of place coming through the output, in a programme that is clearly rooted in the local community.

A local radio station is defined as one serving a specific geographical area, and whose appeal is firmly rooted in its relevance to the community it serves, and the audience it attracts.

Eligible platforms:

Entries must be from a BBC, Commercial or Community licensed local radio station, which meets the same eligibility criteria as The John Myers Award.

Paired with:

Best Community Programming and The John Myers Award for Local Station of the Year

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 500 word supporting statement about the programme and target audience

The entry may also provide:

- Up to 3 links to social media or other relevant online content
- 1 link to audience facing video content that has been published (first 2mins will be watched)

21. The John Myers Award for Local Station of the Year

Category rubric:

Named after the legendary pioneer of UK local radio, this category is for a local station that has captured the hearts and minds of its listeners and delivers day in, day out.

The judges will be looking for clear evidence of a station that knows the local community, serving and representing the tastes, needs and interests of all in fresh and exciting ways, and engaging listeners in every aspect of output both online and offline. While the audio will be the primary determining factor, judges will also consider consistency of programming and clarity of the station's purpose and feel.

A local station is defined as one serving a specific geographical area, and whose appeal is firmly rooted in its relevance to the community it serves, and the audience it attracts.

Eligible platforms:

Entries will be accepted from Ofcom-licensed stations which broadcast to a specific geographical area which is less than 60% of the UK.

Please read the notes in "General Information" to ensure your station qualifies.

Paired with:

Best Community Programming and Best Local Radio Show

The same audio content (or substantially the same audio content) <u>cannot</u> be entered in these paired categories.

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 1,500 word supporting statement - a PDF of up to 6 pages of A4, including both written and visual content

22. National Station or Network of the Year

Category rubric:

This category celebrates the very best in UK radio and will go to the national station or network which has towered above its rivals over the last year.

Judges will be looking for entries that display excellence across their entire broadcast schedule and clearly demonstrate a strong sense of unified station identity that resonates with, and shows deep understanding of, the station's target audience with brilliant audio, inspiring production, and a genuine ability to connect with their listeners.

Judges will also take into account consistency of programming and clarity of the station's purpose and feel.

Eligible platforms:

Entries will be accepted from Ofcom-licensed local radio stations or networks that broadcast on AM, FM or DAB to a substantial proportion of the UK (over 60%).

Please read the notes in "General Information" to ensure your station or network qualifies.

Paired with:

Not paired with any other awards

The entry must include:

- 15-minute audio compilation
- Track-list guide to the audio compilation
- 1,500 word supporting statement - a PDF of up to 6 pages of A4, including both written and visual content

23. Moment of the Year

Category rubric:

As Radio Academy Members, you are invited to submit your nominations for the best moment of audio you've heard within the qualifying time period.

This doesn't necessarily have to be something you've produced yourself – this is a great opportunity to highlight an amazing piece of British radio or audio that you've loved, from anywhere in the sector.

Ideally this would be something that has made an impact and reached a wide audience.

The Radio Academy Trustees will create a shortlist of ten moments of the year, which will be put to a vote of the general public.

It is free to nominate for this category.

Eligible platforms:

Nominations can be from any platform. They should have been broadcast on a UK-run radio station or published by a UK-based audio publisher.

The entry must include:

- A name and brief description of the audio moment (100 words)
- The name of the producer and broadcaster
- A link to the audio, or an MP3 attachment