

Cities of Poetry

Competition

Samarkand as the Culture Capital in the Islamic World 2025



The Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), as part of its program dubbed "Culture Capitals in the Islamic World," is pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of the annual poetry competition:

"Cities of Poetry":

Which will be dedicated this year to Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan.



Entry Requirements:

- The poem must be written in either classical Arabic or Uzbek;
- Arabic poems must adhere to classical (vertical) or free verse meters, while Uzbek poems must conform to the metrical and aesthetic standards of Uzbek poetry;
- The poem must draw inspiration from the values, aesthetics, history, geography, and unique character of the city that is the subject of the poem;
- The poem must not exceed 30 verses/lines;
- Participation is open to poets of all ages.



To participate, please visit the Organization's website and fill out the competition form available via this link:

https://icesco.org/ar/get-engaged/مسابقة-مدن-القصائد/



As of the first of August 2025

Prizes:

ICESCO will award three prizes for the best three poems as follows:

Second Prize: \$2,000

First Prize: \$3,000

Third Prize: \$1,000

In addition, a collection featuring the winning poems and other notable submissions will be published.

The deadline for submissions is: December 31, 2025.

















