



2025 MIFGS STUDENT AND EMERGING DESIGNERS COMPETITION

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show Student and Emerging Designers Competition

The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) is Victoria's premier event for garden lovers, flower fanatics and floral and landscape designers. Over five days, industry leaders, practitioners and the public come together to visit MIFGS. The 2025 event will run from Wednesday 26 March 2025 to Sunday 30 March 2025 with an installation period of five days prior for construction at the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Buildings. Thousands of visitors are anticipated to converge for this annual celebration of plants, exotics blooms, installations, garden designs and all things leafy and green.

Open Gardens Victoria

Open Gardens Victoria (OGV) was launched in 2015 and is a not-for-profit organisation that opens private gardens for the community to enjoy. We actively promote the benefits of gardens and gardening and support horticultural, educational and community projects through our [Giving program](#).

The opportunity

Open Gardens Victoria has a presence at MIFGS each year, and in 2023 we launched our Student Design Competition. This year we are expanding the scope of the competition to invite emerging designers with up to five years industry experience to submit entries, as well as current landscape and horticulture students. The winner will be invited to design, install, present and dismantle a garden on a 6m by 3m site adjacent to the OGV marquee. This is a unique opportunity for an individual or group of students to display their creativity, showcase their talents and gain experience. The successful recipient(s) will be awarded up to \$10,000 to design and deliver their project at the 2025 MIFGS on behalf of OGV. The budget must include items to meet the MIFGS requirements for protection and restoration of the site and insurance for the installation and volunteers.

We're looking for a garden design that is practical, suitable for a small space, sustainable and packed with creativity, in line with Open Gardens Victoria's aim to promote the enjoyment and benefits of gardens. Applications will open from **Sunday 8 September** and close on **Sunday 13 October 2024 at 5pm**.



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Eligibility

- Students currently enrolled (2024) at Victorian Horticultural or Garden Design Institutions, undertaking a course in Horticulture or Garden Design of at least 6 months duration, or
- Emerging garden designers, with up to five years industry experience
- Victorian resident

Specifications

Garden area	6M x 3M (adjacent to OGV marquee)
Event Dates	26/3/2025 to 30/3/2025
Event Hours	9am - 5pm except Fri 28/3 9am - 9pm
Bump in Date	TBC
Bump out Date	Monday 31/3/2025 by 5pm

Grant criteria

Open Gardens Victoria will assess applications based upon your:

- Response to the brief of delivering a practical garden suitable for a small space
- Creativity of the design
- Demonstration of sustainable garden design through material choice and planting
- Appropriate use of water retention and management systems
- Supporting the physical and mental health benefits of gardening,
- Candidate's suitability and capability to deliver project, informed by a sufficiently detailed design, project plan and budget demonstrating ability to deliver the installation
- Candidate's ability to administer the project within the budget and timelines agreed
- Applicant's agreement to comply with MIFGS' operating and safety requirements (this includes obtaining appropriate insurance and responsibility for registering and overseeing your volunteers/contractors)
- Support from referees
- Willingness to participate in OGV's promotion of its MIFGS stall. This should include being available for an hour each opening day to present their installation to the public
- Agreement to assist with promotion of OGV's installation in media and social media
- Any additional promotion of OGV that would be provided by the recipient or their educational institution.

Grant applications close Sunday 13 October at 5pm: successful recipient(s) announced by the end of November.



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Grant amount: up to \$10,000 in total (including GST). The budget must include items to meet the MIFGS requirements for protection and restoration of the site and insurance for the installation and volunteers.

Payments will be made in line with the proposed project budget milestones and these milestones should be set out in the proposed budget. These may include an initial payment of up to 60% and must have at least 20% being retained for payment upon successful completion of the stall packdown. Standard terms apply.