



IEEE ROBOTICS & AUTOMATION SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
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MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The New IEEE RAS Website Has Launched!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the new and improved IEEE Robotics and Automation Society website! Designed to be your central hub for all things RAS, the new site features a more modern and user-friendly interface for everyone looking to learn more about what we do.

We invite you to explore the site and discover all the new resources available!

[Explore](#)

New Reviewer-Author Balance Tracking System for IEEE RAS Publications

RAS implemented a reviewer/author tracking system in PaperCept in order to address a significant imbalance between the number of papers submitted and number of reviewers performed. You can access it from the "compile your activity" report menu. This tool monitors how many papers an author reviews compared to the number of submissions they make, with the goal of achieving a fairer balance. The system will start tracking from **1 January 2026**.

Many of you contribute in other ways, such as serving in demanding executive roles within IEEE RAS (ExCom members, TC Chairs, Editor-in-Chiefs, Senior Editors, or Associate Editors, etc). These contributions will be accounted for. While they are not yet reflected in the system, they will be included in the coming year.

For our Society to continue advancing, we must work together to balance submissions and reviews. Your participation is critical to sustaining the quality and reputation of IEEE RAS publications.

Introducing IEEE RAS University (RAS-U): A New Open-Access Hub for Robotics Education

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (IEEE RAS) is proud to announce the launch of **RAS University (RAS-U)**, a comprehensive web-based educational program designed to offer **free education in robotics** to all worldwide.

RAS-U has been created at EPFL under the leadership of Prof. Aude Billard, President of IEEE RAS. It is funded by IEEE RAS.

Unlike traditional static textbooks, RAS-U combines theoretical rigor with hands-on application.

A "Learn by Doing" Approach RAS-U is built around the philosophy that robotics is best learned through practice. The curriculum bridges the gap between theory and real-world implementation.

Key Features of the Platform:

- **Structured Learning Paths:** A curated series of lessons taking learners from fundamental concepts to advanced robotics applications.
- **Multimodal Content:** Each lesson integrates curated short video lectures, in-depth text explanations, and real-world examples.
- **Hands-On Simulation:** Integrated tutorials using **Webots**, allowing users to write code and simulate robots directly on their machines.
- **Comprehensive Exercises:** A mix of conceptual quizzes, mathematical problems, and programming challenges to test and reinforce understanding.

Who is RAS-U For?

- **Self-Learners:** Master complex robotics topics at your own pace with a guided structure.
- **Undergraduate and graduate students (BSc, MSc, PhD):** Supplement university coursework on robotics with expert-made tutorials and practical simulations.
- **Practitioners in Industry:** keep up to date with the latest developments in robotics by taking advanced courses covering novel control and design methods
- **Educators:** Utilize high-quality, peer-reviewed materials to enhance classroom instruction.

[Get Started](#)

AWARDS

Nominate a Colleague for the 2027 IEEE Robotics and Automation Award

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Award for contributions in the field of robotics and automation is accepting nominations. The nomination deadline is 15 January 2026.

[Learn More](#)

Call for IEEE Fellow Nominations, Class of 2027

Deadline: 7 February 2026

Nominations for the IEEE Fellows Class of 2027 are now being accepted. Nominate a colleague, coworker, or friend whose career and body of work you consider eligible for elevation to the IEEE Fellow grade. IEEE Fellow is a distinction reserved for select IEEE members whose extraordinary accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest are deemed fitting of this prestigious grade elevation.

Apply Online

All forms (nominations, references, and endorsements) must be submitted no later than 7 February at 11:59 p.m. EST.

Eligibility

To be nominated as a Fellow, a recipient must:

- Have accomplishments that have contributed importantly to the advancement or application of engineering, science, and technology, bringing the realization of significant value to society
- Hold Senior Member or Life Senior Member grade at the time the nomination is submitted
- Have been a member in good standing in any grade for a period of five years or more preceding 1 January of the year of elevation.

[Learn More](#)

MEMBERSHIP & SOCIETY NEWS

Applications for 2026 SPARX Cohort Now Open!

SPARX connects faculty members from developing countries and countries at risk with distinguished RAS mentors to elevate their research and publishing efforts in RAS conferences and journals.

Applications close soon on 19 December 2025, 11:59PM PST.

[Learn More and Apply!](#)

CALL: Students Participating in IEEE Robotic Standardization Efforts (SPIRSE)

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society is interested in encouraging students to play an active role in existing robotics standardization efforts. IEEE RAS has multiple standardization efforts, which can be found [here](#). To help encourage student participation, funds have been set aside to provide travel support to students interested in attending the [IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation \(ICRA\)](#) in Vienna, Austria from 1-5 June, where numerous IEEE robotics standardization meetings will be held.

We expect to award three travel grants to cover flights, hotel reservations, and conference registration within the IEEE guidelines and not to exceed US\$3,000 each. Priority will be given to students who would not have otherwise attended ICRA (e.g., do not have a paper accepted), and priority will also be given to undergraduate students. You do not need to be an IEEE member to apply. Complimentary IEEE and RAS memberships will be included in the award.

Reimbursements will be processed after attendance at ICRA. Selected students will be expected to participate in the full-day standards coordination meeting (if scheduled), as well as participate in a number of standards working group meetings. They will also be required to write a 2-3 page report, submitted to IEEE RAS, describing their experiences at the conference and how they expect to use what they learned in the future. Lastly, one letter of recommendation is required.

Applications are due 1 February 2026, and notification of acceptance is expected on or around 1 March 2026.

[Learn More and Apply!](#)

Call for Proposals: 2027 RAS TEP Programs

Each year, the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) offers financial support for its Technical Education Program (TEP), also known as its “Seasonal Schools” program. The RAS TEP program is jointly run by the RAS Educational Activities Board (EAB) and the RAS Technical Activities Board (TAB). The program sponsors schools around the world, to be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.

Program Updates: This year, the program has been updated to better serve the diverse needs of the robotics community. Proposals must now be submitted to one of the three tracks listed below. Please note that organizers may apply to only one track per cycle.

Main Track TEP: Designed for established research programs, this track focuses on cutting-edge, research-oriented content for early-stage graduate students. Proposals should come from teams with a strong history of RAS engagement and publication (funding: up to US\$25,000).

Emerging Track TEP: Designed for regions with nascent robotics communities, this track builds fundamental knowledge and research capacity from the ground up. It focuses on institutions or participants with limited prior access to established robotics research programs (funding: up to US\$10,000).

Practitioner Track TEP: Designed for undergraduate Chapters and newcomers to the field, this track focuses on capacity development, hands-on tools, and practical technologies (funding: up to US\$10,000).

The **application submission deadline is 15 April 2026**. Reach out to ras@ieee.org with questions.

[Submission Form](#)

[Learn More](#)

Renew Your RAS Membership

Don't forget to renew your membership! By being a part of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society, you've taken a significant step in your professional journey.

[Renew Today!](#)

CONFERENCES



ICRA@40 Sessions Available On-Demand

It's been one year since we marked 40 years of robotics excellence at ICRA@40, and now, we're bringing that milestone to your screen. One session at a time, we're releasing the keynotes, panels, and reflections that made the anniversary unforgettable.

[Watch Sessions](#)

Upcoming Deadlines

5 January 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: BioRob 2026

22 January 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: ARSO 2026

28 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: AIM 2026

1 March 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: IROS 2026

PUBLICATIONS

Upcoming Deadlines

31 December - Call for Paper Deadline: [ToH SI on Haptics for the Arts](#)

1 January 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-ASE SI on Trustworthy AI for Automation Control of Embodied Agents in the Era of Foundation Models](#)

15 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-RO Special Collection on Robot-Assisted Medical Imaging](#)

20 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-FR SI on Precision Agriculture and Forestry](#)

21 February 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [T-FR SI on Space Robotics](#)

30 July 2026 - Call for Paper Deadline: [ToH SI on Haptics for Human-Interaction Oriented Teleoperation: Sensorimotor Augmentation, Interfaces, and Control](#)

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