FNR AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PHD THESIS
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Each year, the FNR attributes one “Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis” to an individual who has concluded his/her PhD with a dissertation of outstanding scientific quality. The “Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis” amounts to EUR 5,000.

The FNR has signed the “Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)” and therefore has introduced changes in how it assesses research proposals and scientific publications. This means that the FNR evaluates quality and impact independently of journal-based metrics and gives value to all research outputs. The application and peer review guidelines have been adapted accordingly.

Eligibility criteria

Eligible are:
- Applicants who have conducted their PhD research work predominantly in Luxembourg (i.e. more than 50%) and/or
- AFR-funded PhDs (who have conducted their PhD in Luxembourg or abroad)

Applicants may be considered upon suggestion for the award by a third party (including the FNR), with prior approval of the candidate.

Applicants must have successfully concluded and defended their PhD thesis within the two calendar years preceding the submission deadline (date on PhD certificate counts).

Proposals that were submitted to FNR in the previous call and not retained for an award may be resubmitted. It is strongly advised to include and highlight any additional outputs or impact of the thesis that are new compared to the previous submission.

Selection criteria

- Excellence and originality of the PhD research work
- Quality and impact of the outputs derived from the PhD work, i.e. publications, patents, software, datasets, other
- Academic curriculum of the candidate

Application procedure

- Applicants must submit their application in English as one PDF file including signature by e-mail to jill.mousel@fnr.lu. The Application Form is available on the Awards page of the FNR website.
- Applications must be submitted until 10 February 2020, no later than 14:00 (CET).
- Theses that are too voluminous to send via e-mail may be submitted via web transfer (e.g. WeTransfer) or postal mail (USB-stick), but must reach the FNR until the day of the deadline.
- Applications that come in late, that are not complete or missing signatures will not be considered.
Documents to be joined to the completed Application Form

- Mandatory: Written summary of the PhD research work, the main findings and their specific contribution to the current state of knowledge (in English, max. 10 pages, incl. illustrations and references); the summary should be understandable to scientists who may not have expertise in the specialised subject field.

- Mandatory: Official certificate by the PhD awarding institution attesting the successful conclusion of the PhD or PhD diploma. For UL students, we need the certificate of achievement, the dissertation defence report is not sufficient.

- Mandatory: Electronic version (pdf) of the PhD thesis (may be sent separately via web transfer (e.g. WeTransfer) or on a USB-stick). Note: AFR-PhD students who have already submitted an electronic copy of their thesis to the FNR do not need to send another copy.

- Mandatory: Updated CV of the applicants, including a list of all publications by the applicant. Please do not use journal impact factors. Please indicate whether the papers are published Open Access or not.

- Mandatory: Recommendation letter from a referee (i.e. the PhD supervisor or an alternative referee, who can give a qualified judgement on the quality of the PhD research work and/or the profile of the applicant, e.g. PhD scientific advisor, member of the thesis committee, etc.), describing why the thesis should be considered for the award. The recommendation letter should address the selection criteria. In the recommendation letter, the referee must identify him/herself and his/her connection with the applicant. Note: In case the referee is the proposer of the application, no separate recommendation letter is required but the same points must be addressed in point 2.6. of the application form.

- Optional: Any direct outcomes of the PhD research work, i.e. electronic version of peer-reviewed publications, books, monographs, conferences, filed patents, etc.

- Optional: Any other element that illustrates the outstanding quality of the PhD thesis and/or the candidate (awards, etc.).

Selection procedure

- An expert jury nominated by the FNR will evaluate the eligible applications on the basis of the selection criteria enumerated above.

- Members of the jury are from a broad range of disciplines.

- The decision of the jury shall be final and shall not be subject to appeal. If the jury considers that none of the applicants qualifies for the award, the FNR may decide not to allocate the award.

- The award will be allocated to the winner during the public FNR Award Ceremony. The winner is expected to attend the award ceremony and be available for the production of a short video beforehand.

Contact

For further questions, please contact Mrs Jill Mousel (Tel.: +352 26 19 25 50, E-mail: jill.mousel@fnr.lu) or Mrs Linda Wampach (Tel: +352 26 19 25 71, E-mail: linda.wampach@fnr.lu).