

GUIDELINES

UFW MSc Thesis Award

Each academic year the University Fund Wageningen (UFW) awards four students of Wageningen University & Research who have written the best MSc thesis in either one of the four domains: Life Sciences (plant & animal), Social Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Agro-Technology & Food Sciences. Whenever the available theses within a domain do not comply with the compulsory criteria, the board will retain the right - therein advised by a jury - to withhold from awarding a prize in the given education domain. The UFW will also award an overall excellence thesis prize. From the four winners the overall prize winner is selected.

Prize

Each winner will receive €500, a certificate and a jury report. The overall prize winner receives €1000 instead of €500 and a bronze sculpture of the 'Wageningen Tree' by Sjoerd Buisman.

Conditions for participation

- 1) The student must have completed his/her MSc thesis with a grade of nine (9) or higher in the academic year concerned (September 1st 2021– August 31st 2022).
- 2) The MSc thesis is a registered report written by the student based on research rewarded with a minimum of 33 ECTS as part of the master study programme, as described in the study guide.

Selection

The UFW appoints an independent jury consisting of emeritus-professors. The jury is allowed to seek advice from third parties and jury deliberation is a closed affair. The jury presents her recommendations to the UFW board. After approval by the UFW board, decisions are not subject to appeal.

The jury judges the theses on two main criteria:

- 1) Content quality
 - Originality
 - Complexity of the subject
 - Scientific innovation
 - Societal impact (e.g. the meaning for education, policy, industry, ngo's)
- 2) Technical performance and presentation
 - Clear formulation of the research question and a clear link between conclusion and question
 - Clear argumentation of chosen materials and methods
 - Use of relevant literature
 - Clearly written presentation, composition, layout, clear language and proper spelling

Guidelines nomination thesis

- 1) The thesis is submitted by the chair holder or by staff members holding promotional rights in consultation with the chair holder. Students are not allowed to submit their own thesis.
- 2) Only one thesis per chair group may be submitted, also when more theses within the chair group comply with the criteria. In that case, the chair holder is requested to make a selection in consultation with his/her staff members and only nominate one thesis.
- 3) The chair group which nominates the thesis does not automatically determine the domain in which the thesis will be judged. The main topic of the thesis determines the domain in which it will be judged. The jury holds the right to change the assigned domain after its meeting. This will be communicated with the chair holder.
- 4) Co-productions of students and employees, as well as theses formatted as scientific articles for which the supervisor is responsible, are not allowed to be submitted unless:
 - The student is first author of the article and the mentor adds an accompanying writing of max. 100 words concerning the specific contribution of the student.
Or:
 - The student is not first author and the thesis of the student that is used for the article is added.
- 5) A thesis containing confidential information, to which an oath of secrecy applies, cannot be submitted.
- 6) Both theses written in Dutch and English can be nominated.

Manner of submission

A nomination follows this procedure:

- 1) The nomination has to be registered via the link below:
www.universityfundwageningen.eu/thesisaward
- 2) Subsequently, the following files have to be submitted through WeTransfer to:
ufw@wur.nl
 - ✓ Thesis (PDF)
 - ✓ Motivation letter, written by supervisor or chairholder (maximum of 500 words, for format [see website](#))
 - ✓ Summary of the thesis (maximum of 250 words, pdf, following the format of introduction – results - conclusion)
 - ✓ A copy of the thesis' similarity check (less than one week old, [see website](#))
 - ✓ Official assessment form (excel file, for example [see website](#))

Deadline

The nomination must be submitted on **1 May 2023**, at 23:59 the latest.

Please note

The thesis will not be considered for nomination if one of the above criteria has not been met or if one of the items requested are missing; this is subject to the judgment of the chairman of the jury.