

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE UPV/EHU EXTRAORDINARY DOCTORAL PRIZE. ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Article 90 of the Statutes of the University of the Basque Country (from here on UPV/EHU), approved by Decree 17/2011 of 15 February 2011, ascribes to the Postgraduate Commission the power to approve the conferral of extraordinary doctoral prizes.

Extraordinary doctoral prizes are regulated in Chapter XIV of the Regulations for the Administration of Doctoral Studies, which states that 'Each academic year, the university shall confer one extraordinary doctoral prize for every 10 PhD theses defended or fraction thereof in each of the following fields: Science; Engineering and Architecture; Health Sciences; Social and Legal Sciences; Arts and Humanities' (Article 48.1). Further, it ascribes to the Doctoral Committee the function of convening and approving the conferral of these prizes.

By virtue of the above, the Postgraduate Commission of the UPV/EHU, in a meeting held on 17 January 2024, has agreed to proceed with the Call for applications for the extraordinary doctoral prizes corresponding to the academic year 2022-2023, under the terms set out below.

CONDITIONS

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE CALL

The purpose of this call is to confer the extraordinary doctoral prizes corresponding to academic year 2022-2023, in compliance with the provisions of Article 90 of the Statutes of the UPV/EHU and Article 48 of the Regulations for the Administration of Doctoral Studies.

Each academic year, the university shall confer one extraordinary doctoral prize for every 10 PhD theses defended or fraction thereof in each of the following fields: Science; Engineering and Architecture; Health Sciences; Social and Legal Sciences; Arts and Humanities.

2. APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

PhD holders interested in applying for a prize must meet the following requirements:

- A. They must have defended their doctoral thesis at the UPV/EHU between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023. Any individual who defended their thesis between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022 and took maternity or paternity leave may submit their application during this call for the academic year 2022-2023, providing they did not do so during the 2021-2022 academic year. Any individual who defended their thesis between 1 October 2022 and 30 September 2023 and took maternity or paternity leave may apply in the future call for academic year 2023-2024, should they decide not to apply for the present call. Maternity or paternity leave must have been taken between the data of the thesis viva and the deadline for submitting applications established in section 3.1.

- B. The committee of examiners examining the doctoral thesis must have considered that the thesis is eligible for the extraordinary prize and must have unanimously awarded a 'cum laude' distinction.
- C. The student must have had at least one publication accepted in a journal of international prestige or have filed at least one patent as a result of his/her thesis.

In the Arts and Humanities and Social and Legal Sciences fields, said publication may comprise a book or book chapter, providing it carries the Academic Publication Seal of Approval or is included in Scholarly Publishers Indicators in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Said publications must have occurred during the period between the student's first enrolment in the Doctoral Programme and the deadline for submitting applications.

3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

3.1. Formalisation of applications and deadline for submission

Applications should be addressed to the Chair of the Postgraduate Commission of the UPV/EHU, and should be submitted by completing the online form which may be found at the following URL: <https://www.ehu.eus/en/web/doktoregoa/doctoral-thesis/doctoral-special-prize>

Applications may be submitted within **30 calendar days** of the date on which this call for submissions is posted on the website indicated in the previous section.

3.2. Documents to be submitted

- A. Application of the interested party, addressed to the Chairperson of the UPV/EHU Postgraduate Commission.
- B. Duly completed appendix, listing the contributions resulting from the thesis and expressly specifying the link between each one and the work of the thesis. The applicant must include evidence of the quality of the contributions.
- C. Documents accrediting the contributions included in the appendix. Only merits claimed in the appendix and derived from the thesis and documented before the deadline for submission of applications shall be taken into consideration.
- D. Where applicable, proof of maternity or paternity leave.

4. PROCESSING AND ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

4.1. Assessment of the theses submitted will be carried out in accordance with knowledge area. To this end, each thesis will be considered to adhere to the knowledge area of the doctoral programme completed, as stated in the verification report.

4.2. Notification and Publication

All documentation and information related to this call for applications shall be posted on the UPV/EHU web page, as stated in Condition 3.1, <https://www.ehu.eus/en/web/doktoregoa/doctoral-thesis/doctoral-special-prize> which shall be deemed to constitute notification to the interested parties.

Applications should include an e-mail address to which any necessary individual communications with participants may be sent.

4.3. Provisional list of applications accepted for or disqualified from assessment

On conclusion of the period for submitting applications, the Postgraduate Service shall verify whether the applicants meet the requirements established in Condition 2.

Following a review of the applications, a provisional list shall be posted on the website of all applications accepted or disqualified for the assessment phase, giving the academic year and area of knowledge within which they are to be assessed.

Applicants shall then have a period of 10 working days from the day following the posting of the provisional list to lodge any claims or complaints or correct any shortcomings observed in the application. To do so, they should complete the online form available on the website.

4.4. Final list of applications accepted for and disqualified from assessment

Once the documentation has been reviewed, a final list of accepted and disqualified applications shall be posted. Applicants who have not made the necessary corrections in the time and manner stipulated shall be deemed to have withdrawn their applications.

4.5. Assessment phase

4.5.1. The Postgraduate Commission of the UPV/EHU shall appoint a panel for each of the areas set out in Condition 1 of this call for submissions. Each panel shall consist of three lecturers with PhDs from the corresponding area. The members of the panel must have supervised at least one PhD thesis and have completed at least one six-year research period or equivalent. Whenever possible, one of the panel members should also be a member of the UPV/EHU's Postgraduate Commission. The supervisors of the doctoral theses applying for the prizes are not eligible to sit on these panels. The names of the panel members shall be posted on the website.

4.5.2. Applications accepted in each area shall be sent to the corresponding panel, which shall convene and assess the merits claimed and accredited by the applicants. For this purpose, they may request any information they deem necessary from the applicants. They may also request advice from any experts they see fit.

4.5.3. To guarantee equity in the distribution of prizes, the panels of assessors may agree to apply weighting factors and/or to divide the prizes among the different sub-areas of knowledge within a given area. To establish these sub-areas, they may use the sub-fields defined by the National Commission for Assessment of Research Activity (CNEAI), the thematic areas defined by the State Research Agency (AEI) or any other criterion that the panel members deem applicable to the knowledge area in question.

4.5.4. To assess submissions, the panels will take into account (as a guideline and only insofar as they are deemed to apply to this call) the criteria approved by the Resolution of the National Commission for Assessment of Research Activity (CNEAI) for each of the knowledge fields. Only criteria in effect at the moment of the assessment will be

taken into account. Said criteria can be found on the website indicated in Condition 3.1.

4.5.5. The contributions that may be assessed by the panels and the score that may be awarded to each shall be as follows:

1. International thesis: 2 points
2. Book: 0 – 4 points for each contribution. Book chapter: 0 – 2 points for each contribution.
3. Articles in indexed journals: 0 – 5 points for each contribution. Articles in other journals: 0 – 2 points for each contribution. 1 additional point shall be awarded if the contribution is in Basque. The panel shall assess the quality of non-indexed journals.
4. Patents: 0 – 5 points for each contribution. Artistic creation: 0 – 5 points for each contribution. This contribution will only be taken into account in the field of the Arts. Conferences/Congresses: 0 – 0.5 points for each contribution. The panel shall assess the quality of the congresses (scientific committee for the assessment of the papers, international nature of the event, etc.).
5. Awards: 0 – 2 points for each contribution. The panel shall assess the importance and quality of the awards.
6. Others: 0 – 1 point for the whole section. The panel shall assess the quality of any contributions deriving from the thesis that have not been evaluated in the previous sections.

To be taken into account, it is enough for publications to have been accepted by the publisher or corresponding entity.

Every panel will establish which of the stated contributions will be taken into account in their area of knowledge and to what extent, always within the established limits.

In case of a tie, the social or scientific impact of the thesis and its contributions shall be taken into account.

4.5.6 The panels shall compile a report that they must send the Postgraduate Commission of the UPV/EHU. Said report must contain the following items:

- Date and place of the panel meeting.
- List of panel members.
- Clarifications regarding application of the weighting and/or sub-area division criteria referred to in Condition 4.5.3, specifying, where appropriate, the number of prizes to be awarded in each one.
- Clarifications regarding how the contributions listed in Section 4.5.5 are to be valued.
- List of applications with the score awarded to all candidates for stated and accredited merits, duly broken down in accordance with each contribution listed in Section 4.5.5 that is taken into account in each knowledge area, divided (where appropriate) into knowledge sub-areas.
- List of the names of the persons proposed for the extraordinary award.

The certificate shall, at minimum, be signed by the acting chairperson and secretary of the panel.

If the panel so decides, giving reasons for its decision, it may choose not to confer any prizes.

4.6. Preliminary assessment of merits

The UPV/EHU's Postgraduate Commission will analyse the assessment proposals made by the panels. Once said proposals have been accepted, the score obtained by each candidate shall be published on the website, along with the criteria used to assess each area or sub-area. This publication shall serve as notification to all interested parties. The breakdown of the scores awarded may be requested individually by each candidate.

Applicants may lodge any complaints they deem fit against the assessment within a period of no more than 10 working days from the day following its publication. If no complaints are lodged within this period, the assessment shall be deemed to have been accepted and unsuccessful applicants shall no longer have the right to appeal.

4.7. Final ruling

After reviewing any complaints lodged, the Postgraduate Commission will ask panels to put forward a proposal for the winner of the Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes, and to submit a report in response to any complaint. Once the complaints and allegations presented have been resolved, the Postgraduate Commission shall approve the final agreement on the conferral of Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes. Said agreement shall be posted on the website indicated herein, which shall serve as notification to the interested parties.

5. APPEALS

Appeals against this Call and against the final Agreement of the Postgraduate Commission for the conferral of the UPV/EHU's Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes may be lodged with the Vice-Chancellor of the UPV/EHU, within one month from the day following the date of its publication, as authorised by the Public Administrations Common Administrative Procedure Act, (*Ley del Procedimiento Administrativo Común de las Administraciones Públicas*, 39/2015 of 1 October 2015), Articles 121 and 122.

Amaya Landera López
Secretary of the Postgraduate
Commission

Approved: Montse Maritxalar Anglada
Chair of the Postgraduate Commission