

Rules of the Doctoral Thesis Prize of the Institute for European Studies (IEE)

Article 1 – Purpose of the Prize

The Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (IEE–ULB) awards every year a Doctoral Thesis Prize aimed at recognizing outstanding doctoral research that contributes to the development of European Studies.

The purpose of the Prize is to acknowledge the scientific quality of a doctoral dissertation, enhance the visibility of early-career researchers, and promote the dissemination of innovative research on contemporary European issues.

The Prize is part of the IEE's mission to foster interdisciplinary research on Europe and its political, legal, economic, historical, cultural, and social transformations and to contribute to the public debate on European affairs.

The Prize takes the form of a symbolic distinction awarded to the recipient, a proposal for the publication of the thesis in the “*Études Européennes*” series managed by the IEE in collaboration with the *Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles*, and a grant of EUR 2,000 paid directly to the publisher to cover publication costs (subject to the successful completion of the editorial process by all parties involved and in accordance with the publisher's specific procedures).

Article 2 – Eligibility Criteria

The Prize is open to any individual who has obtained a doctoral degree from a university, regardless of nationality.

Eligible theses must have been defended within the two academic years preceding the call for applications.

Submitted works must make a significant scientific contribution to European studies and to the understanding and public discussion of European affairs.

The theses may fall within the humanities and social sciences, provided they are relevant to European Studies, adopt an interdisciplinary approach and/or are of interest to multiple research fields.

The theses may be written in French or English.

Acceptance of the Prize and the grant implies a commitment to publish in the “*Études Européennes*” series, according to a schedule agreed upon by all parties prior to the award of the Prize.

The prize cannot therefore be awarded to a thesis that has already been published or is in the process of being published elsewhere. Should the anonymous peer-review process following the award of the prize, or any other reason, prevent publication in the *Études européennes* book series, the grant will not be disbursed.

Article 3 – Call for Applications and Application File

The Prize is awarded through a call for applications organized by the IEE–ULB in accordance with a timetable defined by the Institute.

The application file must include the following documents:

- a motivation letter in French or English presenting the applicant's interest and the contribution of the thesis to European Studies (maximum two pages);
- an abstract of the thesis in French or English (maximum four pages), including the research objectives, methodology, main findings, and contribution to the state of the art and existing debates;
- an electronic copy of the thesis (no paper copy required);
- a curriculum vitae of the candidate, including postal, email, and telephone contact details, as well as a list of publications;
- the thesis evaluation report
- the “Book Proposal” form, including, in particular, the table of contents of the proposed book and its positioning in relation to existing publications in the same field. The form can be downloaded from the prize website and must be completed by the applicant.

Applications may be submitted in French or English. They must be submitted through the online application form provided as part of the call, through which applicants are required to complete the form and submit all the required documents.

Article 4 – Evaluation Criteria

Applications are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- scientific excellence and methodological quality of the research;
- the relevance of the thesis to European studies and to understanding contemporary European issues
- alignment with the scientific priorities and research axes of the IEE–ULB;
- its potential to reach a sufficiently broad readership to ensure its editorial viability, in light of its subject matter, interdisciplinary scope and/or appeal to a non-specialist audience.

Article 5 – Selection Committee

The jury is composed by members of the Editorial Board of the “*Études Européennes*” series. It is supported by the research officer of the IEE–ULB.

No member of the Committee may participate to the deliberation if they have acted as supervisor or co-supervisor of a candidate's thesis submitted to the Prize.

For each edition, the jury appoints a chair responsible for coordinating its work and reporting to the Council of the IEE.

The IEE Executive Board is responsible for receiving applications and assessing their eligibility in accordance with the criteria set out in these regulations, particularly with regard to the time elapsed since the thesis defence and the applicant's commitment to publishing the work in the *Études européennes* book series. Applications meeting these requirements are then submitted to the jury for academic assessment.

Depending on the number of applications received, one or two jury members with expertise in the relevant field will be invited to prepare a brief assessment (one page) of each application. The jury will then decide collectively whether to award the prize, taking these assessments into consideration. To ensure an efficient decision-making process, the final deliberations may take place by written vote and/or at an online meeting.

Decisions are taken by consensus or, failing that, by a majority vote of the members present. In the event of a tie, the chair's vote shall count double.

The research officer of the IEE–ULB actively encourages suitable applications, prepares the minutes of the jury meetings, and assists the jury in drafting and presenting the report to the Council of the IEE.

Article 6 – Publication and Dissemination of the Winning Thesis

The laureate benefits from enhanced visibility of their work through dissemination activities conducted by the IEE–ULB upon the awarding of the Prize and through the publication of the thesis volume.

Article 7 – Award Ceremony

The Prize is awarded during a scientific or institutional event organized by the IEE–ULB.