

The Annual VLIZ Master Thesis Awards are aimed at recognising and rewarding the work of meritorious young marine researchers. This way, VLIZ hopes to encourage them to continue to provide high-quality scientific contributions in the future, and to promote marine scientific research in Belgian.

- Art. 1 Every year, Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) awards two scientific prizes to two master theses. Both fundamental and applied research in all branches of marine sciences are taken into consideration. One of both prizes is reserved for a climate-oriented thesis.
- Art. 2 The prizes amount to 500 EUR each and are reserved for young researchers who graduated from a Belgian university or college, or to Belgian young researchers who graduated from an international university or college (graduation in 2022 or 2023).
- Art. 3 An expert jury installed by the Governing Board of VLIZ - upon proposal of the Scientific Committee - will evaluate the contributions submitted. The submissions will be judged and evaluated based on the scientific content (high priority), societal relevance (medium priority), the study design (medium priority) and translatability to the wider audience (medium priority). The jury reserves the right to contact the thesis promotor(s) to obtain more information on the submitted thesis.
- The jury advises the Governing Board, who grants the award. If none of the submitted theses are deemed to be acceptable, the Board can decide not to attribute the award and to add the prize money to the next edition of the Master Thesis Awards.
- Art. 4 Candidacies of former laureates of the VLIZ Master Thesis Awards are not admissible.
- Art. 5 Candidates cannot submit the same contribution more than once for the VLIZ Master Thesis Awards.
- Art. 6 To be taken into consideration all candidates must do the following before the deadline of 31 December 2023:
- complete the registration form on form.vliz.be/en/form/vliz-scientific-awards-2023
 - attach the requested documents (obligatory):
 - the thesis;
 - a summary (max. 5 pages, in Dutch or in English);
 - the curriculum vitae of the author.
- Art. 7 The award will be granted in January 2024. All candidates will be notified of the jury's decision prior to 15 February 2024.

- Art. 8 The award ceremony will take place at the VLIZ Marine Science Day on 6 March 2024. The laureate will present the prize-winning contribution at the meeting.
- Art. 9 VLIZ has the right to publish a synthesis of the award-winning thesis and to announce this publication in its different media, provided that the author's name and function are mentioned.
- Art. 10 VLIZ has the right to deposit all submitted contributions in its marine scientific library. In consultation with the author, VLIZ can include a summary of the thesis in one of its publications.
- Art. 11 All interested candidates can request a free individual membership of VLIZ for the year 2024.
- Art. 12 Any problems or disputes that possibly may arise with regard to participating in and granting of the VLIZ Master Thesis Awards will be settled by the Governing Board. The candidates have no recourse against its decision and are not entitled to any remuneration.
- Art. 13 All participants must agree upon these regulations.

CANDIDACIES

You can register your candidacy at form.vliz.be/en/form/vliz-scientific-awards-2023

Please bear in mind that your application can only be submitted if all mandatory fields are filled AND if you have attached all required documents (cf. article 6).

For technical assistance or further information, please contact the VLIZ-secretariat:

- Telephone: +32 (0)59 33 60 00
- E-mail: awards@vliz.be