

# RULES & REGULATIONS

## FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability”

European Academic Research

21<sup>st</sup> edition - 2026

### Foreword

In 2005, FIR Award was launched to foster academic research on subjects in Finance and Sustainability. By building bridges between the academic and finance communities and their stakeholders, FIR Award aimed to promote practically relevant academic research and encourages broader disciplinary development of responsible investment scholarship.

Starting in 2011, FIR partners with PRI to advance a joint programme to meet these goals. Aspects of this partnership are the development of an international resource database and coordination between the annual PRI Academic Conference and FIR Award Presentation.

### Article 1: Aim of the Award

“FIR-PRI Awards “Finance & Sustainability” European Academic Research” grants:

Awards to research produced in each of the following categories:

- Master’s Thesis (master’s degree, graduate school of management, graduate school of engineering),
- PhD Thesis,
- Published Academic Article,
- Pedagogical Initiative

As well as a research grant for PhD projects in the areas of Financial instruments, Social issues or SRI products marketing

Research projects will be evaluated and selected at the European level.

### Article 2: Eligibility of Research Projects

Submissions will be accepted from:

- hold a European passport
- have an affiliation to a European university or graduate school
- are collaborating with a faculty member who is affiliated to a European research institution
- have Europe as a research field

To be eligible for the awards, research projects must cover at least one topic related to Finance and Sustainability (i.e. Socially Responsible Investment, Micro Finance, etc.).

Best Master’s Thesis:

- Projects must have been completed as part of a University master’s degree thesis, a graduate thesis for a “Grande École” (credited by the appropriate Ministry),
- Projects must be backed and supervised by a University or “Grande École” professor.

Best PhD Thesis:

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2026 FIR-PRI “Finance & Sustainability” European Research Awards – 21<sup>st</sup> edition - [contact@fir-pri-awards.org](mailto:contact@fir-pri-awards.org)

- Projects must have been completed as part of a PhD thesis
- Projects must be backed and supervised by a University or “Grande École” professor.

Best Pedagogical Initiative:

- Projects must have been implemented / integrated / used in an academic program for the first time during the specified period
- **Eligible initiatives:**
  - o Case studies;
  - o Courses, modules, programs, certificates at different level: bachelor, master, PhD, postgrade;
  - o Serious games, simulations, business games;
  - o Various online courses in higher education (MOOCs, etc.)
  - o Student challenges between institutions of higher education
  - o ...

Best Published Article:

- Articles must have been published in an academic review with a proper reading committee.

PhD Research grant:

- To be eligible for the PhD research grant, research projects must contribute at least partially to “social issues”, “financial instruments” or “SRI products marketing” areas of the Finance and Sustainability topic.
- Projects must be backed and supervised by a University or “Grande École” professor.

**Research projects should be written in French or English.**

Candidates may apply individually or as part of a team.

To be eligible for the awards, projects will have to be submitted according to the conditions stated under Article 5.

### Article 3: Confidentiality

At the time of application, research projects will have to be completed and/or published or publishable. The jury will not be able to evaluate research works bound by permanent and strict confidentiality. The public nature of the research document is therefore essential for it to be allowed to compete for the “FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Awards”.

Temporary confidentiality measures will be taken throughout the evaluation and selection process up until the award ceremony. During this period, the research projects will not be shared with anyone outside the selection committee and jury members. Those on the committee promise not to disclose any information until the award ceremony.

After publication of the results and the awards ceremony, the confidentiality clause will be lifted.

The candidates who apply to the “FIR-PRI “Finance & Sustainability” European Research Awards” must be willing to provide the **summaries** of their competing research projects on a free and non-exclusive basis (see Article 5 below). This is mainly to allow them to be included in a database set up by the French SIF, and to allow a possible publication of the above-mentioned summaries, free of charge, and in any format that the award organisation team deems appropriate.

### Article 4: Application Procedure

Candidates must complete an application online at <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>

Any questions can be sent at [contact@fir-pri-awards.org](mailto:contact@fir-pri-awards.org)

**Research projects that have already been submitted for 2026 Awards may not be submitted again.**

Applications will enter into consideration upon reception of the complete application file.

Applications may be sent from **January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, and will enter into consideration upon reception of the complete application file no later than **April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## Article 5: Application File

1. Best Master's Thesis Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - Reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature,
  - **Application form on the website: <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>**
  - **Copy of Master's Thesis, electronic document**
  - **A summary of the Master's thesis (up to 5,000 characters spaces included, a bibliography not counting in the character count may be added)** including explanations as to how it contributes to the topic of Finance and Sustainability. **Please note that this summary is very important as only the summary is sent to the Jury for the first round. The jury will only receive the full papers of shortlisted applications.**

The award is open to students having completed and presented their Master's thesis **between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 and April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

2. Best PhD Thesis Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - Reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature,
  - **Application form on the website: <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>**
  - **Copy of PhD thesis, electronic document**
  - **A summary of the PhD thesis (up to 15,000 characters spaces included, a bibliography not counting in the character count may be added)** including explanations as to how it contributes to the topic of Finance and Sustainability. **Please note that this summary is very important as only the summary is sent to the Jury for the first round. The jury will only receive the full papers of shortlisted applications.**

The award is open to students having completed and presented their PhD thesis **between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 and April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

3. Best Published Article Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - **Application form on the website: <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>**
  - **Copy of published article, electronic document**
  - **Research projects that have already been submitted for 2025 awards may not be submitted again.**

The award is open to researchers having published their article **between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.** Papers having been accepted for publication are also eligible.

4. For Best Pedagogical Initiative
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
  - Candidate's contact information.
  - **Application form on the website <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>**
  - **A summary of the Pedagogical Initiative (up to 5,000 characters spaces included, a bibliography not counting in the character count may be added).** The document should include information on pedagogical content, learning objectives, methods used, the type of program in which the initiative is being implemented, as well as reporting elements such as the number of students reached, the institutions where the initiative has been implemented, etc. Additional documents can be added.

The award is open to professors and researchers **having FIRST implemented, integrated, used their Pedagogical Initiative in an academic program between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 and April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

5. PhD research grant:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,

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- Letter of the Research Director backing and supervising the research,
- Candidate's contact information.
- **Application form on the website:** <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>
- **Grant form available on the application form page including a summary of the research project (up to 5,000 characters spaces included)** in which applicants will be able to give explanations as to how it contributes to "social issues" or "financial instruments" or "SRI products marketing" in the area of Finance and Sustainability;

The grants are available for all research projects **sent in by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026** regardless of whether the research has just begun or whether it is ongoing.

**The quality and size of summaries are extremely important since they are what the jury reads during the first round to select nominees for the second and final round.**

## Article 6: Allowances

The awards winners will be rewarded by allowances provided by "FIR-PRI "Finance & Sustainability" European Research Awards" business partners.

Four prizes can be awarded for:

- Best Master's Thesis
- Best PhD Thesis
- Best Published Article
- Best Pedagogical Initiative

Each individual or team award winner will be rewarded by a **€5,000 allowance**. In addition to the financial reward, award-winning research could also be published.

The PhD Research grant will be rewarded by a **€10,000 allowance**: €4,000 in 2026, €3,000 in 2027 and €3,000 in 2028. At each step, the awardee will provide a state of his work to the Jury President, who will validate fund release.

Each allowance will be delivered to an individual. For team projects, the jury will decide upon the allowance allocation between team members.

The jury reserves the right not to distribute some or all the allowance if they believe none of the submitted research projects deserve it.

## Article 7: Selection Committee and Jury

A selection committee composed of academics, corporate sponsor representatives, French SIF representatives and PRI will oversee the short-listing and winners' selection process.

The jury will be composed of theory specialists (university or graduate school teachers, etc.) and experts (business partners) in the field of Finance and Sustainability.

A member of the selection committee and the jury may not apply (or co-apply) to any of the awards or grants. Special attention will be paid to the diversity of the jury to make sure it includes a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

To prevent conflict of interest, all jury members (academics, practitioners, experts, etc.) must declare relations with any candidates. When the relation is significant, the jury member doesn't vote in the candidate's category of application. The Jury and its Chair remain responsible for this process implementation.

If a Jury member wishes to apply (or co-apply) to any category of the award, its participation to the Jury is suspended for the year of application.

The selection committee and the jury have agreed not to disclose any information regarding the research projects that have been submitted until the awards ceremony.

The selection committee and the jury members have been granted full decision power in the winners' selection. Their decisions cannot be opposed. Neither will they need to be justified.

## **Article 8: Research Selection Criteria**

The selection committee and jury members will pay special attention to the following items:

- Quality of research
- Originality of research
- Impact of research (for practitioners, from a managerial point of view, etc.)
- Contribution to the topic of sustainable finance (academic, scientific interest, etc.)

## **Article 9: Research Work Restitution**

Research projects and additional documents submitted to the French SIF as part of an award application cannot be mailed back to the candidates. The French SIF will keep a copy of all the research projects for their archives.

## **Article 10: Agreement to Rules and Regulations**

The submission of an application for the "FIR-PRI "Finance & Sustainability" European Research Awards" implies that the applicants fully agree with the hereby rules & regulations.

## **Article 11: Access to Rules & Regulations**

Rules & regulations of the award can be viewed on the Awards website at the following address: <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>

## **Article 12: Circumstances Outside One's Control and Cancellation**

Under circumstances outside of one's control, the award organisers reserve the right to cancel or postpone the award ceremony.

## **Article 13: Right of Publicity**

The events surrounding the "FIR-PRI Awards "Finance & Sustainability"" will be advertised on paper (digital format included), as well as via visual and audio media.

Any of the participants, candidates, organisers, selection committee and jury members, and sponsors may see their name quoted in relation to the award, or their image broadcasted as part of live broadcastings taking place during events surrounding the award.

Participation in, as well as assistance with, the award implies full acceptance of the hereby rules & regulations, including the right to use the quoted names and the broadcasted images to advertise events surrounding the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Awards".

## **Article 14: Modifications to Rules & Regulations**

The hereby rules and regulations may be modified or completed without prior notification by the French SIF and PRI. However, any potential modification of the hereby rules & regulations will be announced and uploaded on the website: <https://www.fir-pri-awards.org/>