

Rules for the 2025 Ph.D. Thesis Contest of the BCerS

1. General information

- The best thesis contest of the BCerS is organised every 2 years to reward young researchers involved in the field of inorganic and non-metallic materials (ceramic, glass, cements, etc.) and performing their research in a Belgian Research Unit.
 - Participants have the opportunity to present their own works, it covers Ph.D. Thesis works achieved during the 2 previous years (from 1st September 2023 to 30st September 2025).
 - The price for the Best Ph.D. Thesis Contest is an amount of 1.000,00 €.
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2. The candidates' file will include the following elements :

- Application letter in English (maximum one A4 page)
 - Copy of the manuscript corresponding to the research work (in English, French or Dutch).
 - Short abstract of the thesis in English (maximum one A4 page).
 - English summary of the scientific work (two to maximum four pages in A4 format) highlighting the originality and the scientific quality of the work.
 - The candidate's application file must reach BCerS secretariat at the latest on April 30th 2025.
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3. Attribution of the Award

- The eligibility of the applications will be notified to the candidates by the BCerS secretariat at the latest 7 days following reception of the application file.
 - After examination of the application file, the BCerS board will nominate a jury composed of a president and two assessors. The jury will be selected in order to be able to vote in total independency with respect to the candidates.
 - The admitted candidates will be invited to give the jury a 15 minutes oral presentation of their work in English. The members of BCerS are invited to attend to these presentations which will be held during the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Society (26th May 2025 at UGent).
 - The oral presentation will be prepared taking into account that the members of the jury have a general scientific and technical knowledge but are not necessarily specialists in the field concerned.
 - The jury will make his choice by successive votes. It deliberates the place to attribute in case of candidates placed equal.
 - The decision of the jury is indisputable.
 - The jury will rank the candidates separately in each category and will grant the awards to the winner of each category.
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4. Evaluation criteria - The following criteria will be taken into account to evaluate the candidates:

- Originality of the subject and/or of the work
- Quality of the presentation support (including language)
- Quality of the oral presentation (including respect of speaking time allowed)
- Quality of the discussion and of the scientific argumentation
- General coherence of the speech
- Potential industrial valorisation perspectives