

## Rules for the 2026 BCerS Student Speech Contest

### 1. General information

- The Student Speech Contest of 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.
- Preferred subject areas are those that are part of the scientific content of the European Ceramic Society Conferences.
- Participants have the opportunity to present their own works.
- *The Student Speech Contest* is open for students who are currently preparing a Master or a Ph.D thesis (not completed before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026) and who will be within the first 5 years of full time research at the date of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2027.
- The price for the Student Speech Contest includes an amount of 200,00 € and the attendance to the ECerS Conference (see item 5).

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### 2. The candidates' file will include the following elements:

- Application letter in English (maximum one A4 page)
- Short abstract of the presentation 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 **16<sup>th</sup> October 2026**.

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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 designate 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 (18<sup>th</sup> November 2026 - Hasselt).
- 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 and will grant the award to the winner.

#### ***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
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#### ***5. Obligations of the Student Speech Contest winner :***

- The winner will commit himself/herself to represent the BCeRS during next "Student Speech Contest" which will be organised by the European Ceramic Society during the 2027 European Ceramic Society Conference which will be held in Valencia, Spain, from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2027.
- If he/she cannot attend the ECeRS Contest (only in case of absolute necessity), the opportunity will be offered to the next candidate following in the general ranking.
- The expenses incurred by the winner on those 2 occasions (registration fee, travel and accommodation – estimated to +/- 1.000 €) will be supported by the Belgian Ceramic Society and/or by the ECeRS Conference Organiser (according to their own rules).

Mons, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2026