

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE EHU EXTRAORDINARY DOCTORAL PRIZE. 2024/2025 academic year

Article 90 of the Statutes of the University of the Basque Country (from here on the EHU), approved by Decree 17/2011 of 15 February 2011, ascribes to the Postgraduate Commission the power to approve the conferral of extraordinary doctoral prizes.

The Regulations on Managing Official Doctoral Studies at the University of the Basque Country of 25 April 2024, extraordinary doctoral prizes are regulated in Chapter XV. Specifically, article 64.1 states that the prize will be made in accordance with the conditions established in the call for applications, which states that each academic year, the university shall confer one extraordinary doctoral prize for every 10 PhD theses defended or fraction thereof in each of the following fields: Science; Engineering and Architecture; Health Sciences; Social and Legal Sciences; Arts and Humanities' (Article 48.1). Further, it ascribes to the Doctoral Committee the function of convening and approving the conferral of these prizes.

By virtue of the above, the Postgraduate Commission of the EHU, in a meeting held on 19 January 2026, has agreed to proceed with the Call for applications for the extraordinary doctoral prizes corresponding to the academic year 2024/2025, on the proposal of the Doctoral School, under the terms set out below.

CONDITIONS

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE CALL

The purpose of this call is to recognise the excellence of doctoral theses by conferring the extraordinary doctoral prizes corresponding to academic year 2024-2025, in compliance with the provisions of Article 90 of the Statutes of the EHU and Article 64 of the Regulations for the Administration of Doctoral Studies.

Each academic year, the university shall confer one extraordinary doctoral prize for every 10 PhD theses defended or fraction thereof in each of the following fields: Science; Engineering and Architecture; Health Sciences; Social and Legal Sciences; Arts and Humanities.

2. APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

According to Article 64.4, PhD holders interested in applying for a prize must meet the following requirements:

- A. They must have defended their doctoral thesis at the EHU between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025. Any individual who defended their thesis between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024 and took maternity or paternity leave may submit their application during this call for the academic year 2024-2025, providing they did not do so during the 2023-2024 academic year. Any individual who defended their thesis between 1 October 2024 and 30 September 2025 and took maternity or paternity leave may apply in the future call for academic year 2025-2026, should they decide not to apply for the present call. Maternity or paternity leave must have been taken between the data of the thesis viva and the deadline for submitting applications established in section 3.1.

- B. The committee of examiners examining the doctoral thesis must have considered that the thesis is eligible for the extraordinary prize and must have unanimously awarded a 'cum laude' distinction.
- C. The student must have had at least one publication accepted in a journal of international prestige or have filed at least one patent as a result of his/her thesis. In the Arts and Humanities and Social and Legal Sciences fields, said publication may comprise a book or book chapter, providing it carries the Academic Publication Seal of Approval or is included in Scholarly Publishers Indicators in Humanities and Social Sciences. Said publications must have occurred during the period between the student's first enrolment in the Doctoral Programme and the deadline for submitting applications specified in Condition 3.1. Only publications that specifically state the candidate's affiliation with the EHU will be accepted.

3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

3.1. Formalisation of applications and deadline for submission

Applications should be addressed to the Doctoral School (DOKe) of the EHU, and should be submitted by completing the online form which may be found on the website: <https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/doktoregoa/tesis-doctoral/premios-extraordinarios>.

Applications that, in the section provided for this purpose in the form, fail to adequately demonstrate compliance with requirement C established in Condition 2 of this call, which must be demonstrated by providing official certificates or valid and verifiable evidence, will be rejected.

Applications may be submitted within 30 calendar days of the date on which this call for submissions is posted on the website indicated in the previous section. The documentation required for the application is specified in Condition 3.2 of this call for applications. If an applicant submits more than one application within the established deadline, only the last application received will be considered valid, and all documentation submitted with previous applications will be rejected.

No application submitted after the deadline will be considered.

3.2. Documents to be submitted

- A. Application of the interested party, addressed to the Doctoral School (DOKe).
- B. Duly completed appendix, listing the contributions resulting from the thesis and expressly specifying the link between each one and the work of the thesis. The applicant must include evidence of the quality of the contributions.
- C. Documents accrediting the contributions included in the appendix. Only merits claimed in the Annex that are derived from the thesis and are documented with official certificates or valid and verifiable evidence submitted within the application deadline specified in Condition 3.1 will be considered. Self-certifications or certifications issued by unauthorised individuals or bodies will not be accepted. Only publications that explicitly state the doctoral candidate's affiliation with the EHU will be accepted.
- D. Where applicable, proof of maternity or paternity leave.

4. PROCESSING AND ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS

4.1. Assessment of the theses submitted will be carried out in accordance with knowledge area.

Each thesis will be considered to belong to the knowledge area of the doctoral programme in which it was completed, as established in the verified programme description.

Consequently, each thesis will be assessed by the examination panel corresponding to the knowledge area of the doctoral programme, regardless of the specific research area on which the thesis focuses.

Applicants may consult the Doctoral School's website to find out to which knowledge area the doctoral programme in which they were enrolled during their doctoral thesis research belongs.

4.2. Notification and Publication

All documentation and information related to this call for applications shall be posted on the EHU web page, as stated in Condition 3.1, <https://www.ehu.eus/es/web/doktoregoa/tesis-doctoral/premios-extraordinarios> which shall be deemed to constitute notification to the interested parties.

Applications should include an e-mail address to which any necessary individual communications with participants may be sent.

4.3. Provisional list of applications accepted for or disqualified from assessment

On conclusion of the period for submitting applications, the Doctoral School shall verify whether the applicants meet the requirements established in Condition 2.

Following a review of the applications, a provisional list shall be posted on the website of all applications accepted or disqualified for the assessment phase, giving the academic year and area of knowledge within which they are to be assessed.

Applicants shall then have a period of 10 working days from the day following the posting of the provisional list to lodge any claims or complaints or correct any shortcomings observed in the application. To do so, they should complete the online form available on the website.

During this phase, no new merits may be added; only corrections to those already included in the application (as indicated in Condition 3.1) will be permitted.

If an applicant submits more than one claim within the established deadline, only the last claim received will be considered valid, and all documentation submitted in previous claims will be rejected.

Claims submitted after the deadline will also be rejected.

4.4. Final list of applications accepted for and disqualified from assessment

Once the documentation has been reviewed, a final list of accepted and disqualified applications shall be posted. Applicants who have not made the necessary corrections in the time and manner stipulated shall be deemed to have

withdrawn their applications.

4.5. Assessment phase

4.5.1. In accordance with article 64.5 of the EHU's Regulations for the Management of Official Doctoral Studies, the Permanent Council of the Doctoral School of the EHU will appoint a panel for each of the knowledge areas mentioned in Condition 1 of this call for applications. Each panel shall consist of three lecturers with PhDs from the corresponding area with a permanent full-time contract. The members of the panel must have supervised at least one PhD thesis and have completed at least one six-year research period or equivalent. The supervisors of the doctoral theses applying for the prizes are not eligible to sit on these panels.

4.5.2. Applications accepted in each area shall be sent to the corresponding panel, which shall convene and assess the merits claimed and accredited by the applicants. For this purpose, they may request any information they deem necessary from the applicants. They may also request advice from any experts they see fit.

4.5.3. To guarantee equity in the distribution of prizes, the panels of assessors may agree to apply weighting factors and/or to divide the prizes among the different sub- areas of knowledge within a given area. To establish these sub-areas, they may use the sub-fields defined by the National Commission for Assessment of Research Activity (CNEAI), the thematic areas defined by the State Research Agency (AEI) or any other criterion that the panel members deem applicable to the knowledge area in question.

4.5.4. To assess submissions, the panels will take into account (as a guideline and only insofar as they are deemed to apply to this call) the criteria approved by the Resolution of the National Commission for Assessment of Research Activity (CNEAI) for each of the knowledge fields. Only criteria in effect at the moment of the assessment will be taken into account. Said criteria can be found on the website indicated in Condition 3.1.

4.5.5. The contributions that may be assessed by the panels and the score that may be awarded to each shall be as follows:

1. International thesis: 2 points
2. Book: 0 – 4 points for each contribution. Book chapter: 0 – 2 points for each contribution.
3. Articles in indexed journals or publications derived from prestigious conferences that, due to their quality and positioning in international rankings, can be considered equivalent to publications in indexed journals, according to the criteria established in the current CNEAI Resolution for the corresponding scientific field: between 0 and 5 points for each contribution. Up to a maximum of five (5) papers will be accepted, along with up to two (2) reserve papers, all of which must be published in journals indexed in databases of recognised prestige in the corresponding field of knowledge; reserve papers will only be assessed in the event of a tie. 1 additional point shall be awarded if the contribution is in Basque.
4. Patents: 0 – 5 points for each contribution.

5. Artistic creation: 0 – 5 points for each contribution. This contribution will only be taken into account in the field of the Arts.
6. Conferences/Congresses: 0–0.5 points for each contribution. The panel shall assess the quality of the congresses (scientific committee for the assessment of the papers, international nature of the event, etc.). Contributions to conferences that have already been assessed under section 3 of Condition 4.5.5 will not be considered. The maximum overall score that an applicant can obtain in the conferences section is 2 points.
7. Awards: 0 – 2 points for each contribution. The panel shall assess the importance and quality of the awards.
8. Others: 0 – 1 point for the whole section. The panel shall assess the quality of any contributions deriving from the thesis that have not been evaluated in the previous sections.

To be taken into account, it is enough for publications to have been accepted by the publisher or corresponding entity.

Each panel will establish which of the stated contributions it believes should be taken into account in its area of knowledge and to what extent, always within the established limits and with due justification. To this end, the panel may consider, among other aspects, the order of authorship, the total number of authors or other elements it deems relevant.

In case of a tie, the social or scientific impact of the thesis and its contributions shall be taken into account, along with the 2 reserve publications indicated in point 3 of section 4.5.5.

4.5.6 The panels shall compile a report that they must send the Doctoral School of the EHU. Said report must contain the following items:

- Date and place of the panel meeting.
- List of panel members.
- Clarifications regarding application of the weighting and/or sub-area division criteria referred to in Condition 4.5.3, specifying, where appropriate, the number of prizes to be awarded in each one.
- Clarifications regarding how the contributions listed in Section 4.5.5 are to be valued.
- List of applications with the score awarded to all candidates for stated and accredited merits, duly broken down in accordance with each contribution listed in Section 4.5.5 that is taken into account in each knowledge area, divided (where appropriate) into knowledge sub-areas.
- List of the names of the persons proposed for the extraordinary award.

The certificate shall, at minimum, be signed by the acting chairperson and secretary of the panel.

In accordance with article 64 of the EHU's Regulations for the Management of Official Doctoral Studies if the panel so decides, giving reasons for its decision, it may choose not to confer any prizes.

4.6. Preliminary assessment of merits

The Doctoral School will analyse the assessment proposals made by the panels. Once said proposals have been accepted, the score obtained by each candidate shall be published on the website, along with the criteria used to assess each area or sub-area. This publication shall serve as notification to all interested parties. The breakdown of the scores awarded may be requested individually by each candidate.

Applicants may lodge any complaints they deem fit against the assessment within a period of no more than 10 working days from the day following its publication. If no complaints are lodged within this period, the assessment shall be deemed to have been accepted, and unsuccessful applicants shall no longer have the right to appeal. If an applicant submits more than one claim within the established deadline, only the last claim received will be considered valid, and all documentation submitted in previous claims will be rejected.

Claims submitted after the deadline will also be rejected.

4.7. Final ruling

In accordance with article 64.7 of the EHU's Regulations for the Management of Official Doctoral Studies, the Doctoral School will make a proposal for the awarding of extraordinary prizes to the Postgraduate Commission after resolving the claims presented.

In accordance with article 64.8 of the EHU's Regulations for the Management of Official Doctoral Studies, the Postgraduate Commission of the EHU, in view of the proposal made by the Doctoral School, will approve the awarding of the Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes.

After reviewing any complaints lodged, the Postgraduate Commission will ask panels to put forward a proposal for the winner of the Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes, and to submit a report in response to any complaint. Said agreement shall be posted on the website indicated herein, which shall serve as notification to the interested parties.

5. APPEALS

Appeals against this Call and against the final Agreement of the Postgraduate Commission for the conferral of the EHU's Extraordinary Doctoral Prizes may be lodged with the Vice-Chancellor of the EHU, within one month from the day following the date of its publication, as authorised by the Public Administrations Common Administrative Procedure Act, (Ley del Procedimiento Administrativo Común de las Administraciones Públicas, 39/2015 of 1 October 2015), Articles 121 and 122.

**Chair of the Postgraduate
Commission**

Ainhoa Berasaluze Correa
Vice-Rector of Postgraduate and Lifelong Learning

**Secretary of the Postgraduate
Commission**

Amaia Landera López
Head of Postgraduate Studies Service