

ZWU Young Scientist Award (YSA) 2027

For the eighteenth time, the Centre for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU) is awarding the Young Scientist Award (YSA) for outstanding students and young scientists in the field of water and environmental research.

The prize is awarded to theses (master/magister/diploma/state examination) and dissertations that were completed at the University of Duisburg-Essen in 2026. All scientific disciplines are eligible for applicants. A close connection to the research topics of the ZWU is essential for proposed theses. As long as the degree was completed at UDE or as part of a cooperative ZWU project, theses completed at external institutions ((e.g. at institutes affiliated with the UDE or partner universities) are allowed as well.

The nominations can be submitted by habilitated members as well as junior professors, authorized ZWU members and academic supervisors. One candidate per category can be nominated by members eligible to nominate.

The following documents must be submitted electronically to the ZWU office by January 15, 2027.

- a. Thesis
- b. Summary of the thesis (maximum two pages, A4 format)
- c. Curriculum vitae (tabular format)
- d. Current list of publications
- e. Degree certificate / complete transcript, as well as the doctoral certificate (if applicable)
- f. Copies of the scientific evaluation created for the thesis/dissertation
- g. Nominator's recommendation letter

The ZWU office forwards the applications to the selection committee (see statute paragraph 6 in the appendix).

Three prizes are awarded for outstanding master's/magister's/diploma and state examination theses, as well as two prizes for dissertations.

The YSA is awarded annually. The award ceremony is scheduled to happen during the UDE Summer Festival.

Contact

Please send your application by email to Anja Cargill at the ZWU office at zwu@uni-due.de.

Appendix

Attached please find the charter of the Young Scientist Awards (YSA) of the Centre for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU).

Statutes of the Young Scientist Award (YSA) of the Centre for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU)

§ 1 Dedication

- (1) The Center for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU) presents the Young Scientist Award (YSA) annually for outstanding achievements by students and young scientists who are closely related to the research topics of the ZWU.
- (2) The prize is awarded for theses that have an innovative approach and are scientifically outstanding.
- (3) Eligible for funding are master's/magister/diploma and state examination theses as well as dissertations. Theses that were completed at external institutions (e.g. at institutes affiliated with the University of Duisburg-Essen (UDE) or partner universities) are also permitted as long as the degree was completed at the UDE or as part of a cooperative ZWU project.

§ 2 Awards

- (1) Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:
 - a. Completed master's/magister/diploma and state examination theses
 - b. Completed dissertations
- (2) Number of prizes and prize money to be awarded:

Category	Master's/ magister/ diploma and state examination	Dissertations
Number of prizes to be awarded	3	2
Award amount	graduated prize amounts 600, 500 and 400 €	graduated prize amounts 800, 700 €

§ 3 Call for proposals

- (1) Awards will be announced annually early in the winter term.
- (2) All habilitated members of the ZWU as well as junior professors, ZWU members authorized to review and supervisors have the right to nominate candidates.
- (3) Eligible members may not propose more than one candidate per category.
- (4) The nominees must be members of the UDE or have completed their theses at the UDE within the previous calendar year. The ZWU Board of Directors decides on exceptions.

§ 4 Supporting documents

- (1) Both categories require the submission of the following documents electronically to the ZWU office:
 - a. Thesis
 - b. Summary of the thesis (maximum two pages, A4 format)
 - c. Curriculum vitae (tabular format)
 - d. Current list of publications
 - e. Degree certificate / complete transcript, as well as the doctoral certificate (if applicable)
 - f. Copies of the scientific evaluation created for the thesis/dissertation
 - g. Nominator's recommendation letter
- (2) The letter of recommendation should be based on the following criteria and evaluate the submitted thesis in this context:
 - Scientific excellence
 - Originality
 - Methodological quality
 - Scientific and societal significance
 - Additional criteria (e.g., interdisciplinarity, innovation potential, engagement in science communication or societal contexts, personal circumstances, etc.)

§ 5 Dates

- (1) Applications must be submitted by January 15 of every year.
- (2) The Young Science Award is presented annually. The awards ceremony is usually held in the summer term.

§ 6 Selection committee

- (1) The ZWU Board of Directors appoints a selection committee to review submissions and propose the order of awards. The final decision is then taken by the ZWU Board of Directors.