



IREFI THESIS AWARD 2024 – RULES

The IREFI thesis award will honor the best master's thesis on a current topic relating to the financial services sector. This award reflects the ambition of the IREFI Board to increase the attractiveness of the audit profession in the financial services sector by stimulating students to carry out research that is relevant to the financial sector in the broader sense.

The selection criteria are the following:

- The topic and the relevance of the thesis
- The innovativeness
- The scientific quality
- The writing style and readability

Article 1 – access to the contest

All final master year students of Belgian universities, university colleges and business schools are eligible to participate in the contest.

Master theses written during the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and with a minimum grade of 12/20 are eligible. Students can only apply once with the same master's thesis. Master theses handed in previously, will be directly eliminated from the contest.

Master theses written jointly by more than one student are allowed to participate. The prize of the award shall be shared equally.

The master's thesis can be written in Dutch, French or English.

Confidential master theses are excluded from the contest.

Article 2 – topic of the master's thesis

The master's thesis topic needs to relate to the financial services sector or the audit of financial services entities.

The eligibility of a master's thesis will be assessed by a subcommittee of the IREFI Board members based on an abstract describing the topic, the aim, the key messages and the conclusion of the thesis.

Article 3 – application

Students can participate to the contest by sending the online application to the scientific secretariat of the IREFI (v.sablon@irefi-iraif.be).

Applications need to be sent digitally by 5 July 2024 at the latest. Applications arriving later will be disregarded.

The application consists of the following:

- the completed registration form
- the abstract of the thesis, consisting of a maximum of three (3) A4 pages, describing the topic, the aim, the key messages and the conclusion of the thesis
- the thesis

Upon receipt of the application, candidates will receive a confirmation of receipt.

The submission of the thesis does not constitute a transfer of copyright.

Article 4 – selection

A first short list selection will be made based on the reading of the abstracts. For this selection, the subcommittee of the IREFI Board members will mainly focus on the relevance of the topic.

The final election of the winning theses will be made through the reading of the full theses. The jury will pay particular attention to the innovativeness, the scientific quality and the writing style and readability of the document.

The winning thesis will be elected by majority of jury votes.

At the occasion of an award ceremony or event, the winner(s) will have the opportunity to present the winning thesis to the audience through a short presentation.

Article 5 – jury

The jury members have a particular affinity with the financial services sector and will be chosen amongst the members of the IREFI or the experts from the audit firms, depending on the expertise required.

The jury will act entirely autonomously and will elect the winning thesis.

Article 6 – prizes

Depending on the number and quality of theses received, three prizes can be awarded as follows:

- 3.000 € for the winner(s)
- 2.000 € for the second place
- 1.000 € for the third place

If a winning thesis is written jointly by more than one student, the prize money will be evenly distributed among the winning team members.

In case of insufficient quality of the theses submitted, the jury has the right not to award the prize(s).

The IREFI explicitly assumes that the prize money does not constitute professional income for the student(s) and should thus not prepare any individual forms in the name of the participating student(s). In any case, the IREFI cannot be held liable for the specific tax treatment at the level of the participating student(s).



Article 7 – timetable

From 1 June until 5 July 2024: submission of the documents

From 6 July until 6 September 2024: assessment process

Mid September 2024: announcement of the winner(s) by e-mail to all participants

10 October 2024: award event, including presentation of the winner(s)

Article 8 – publication of the present rules

The rules of the thesis award are also available at the following website:

- <https://www.ibr-ire.be/nl/actueel/berichten-irefi>
- <https://www.ibr-ire.be/fr/actualites/communications-iraif>

Article 9 – contact information

For more information, interested parties can contact the scientific secretariat of the IREFI:

Veerle Sablon

v.sablon@irefi-iraif.be



IREFI THESIS AWARD – REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) and last name(s)

Address(es)

Telephone number(s)

E-mail address(es)

Name of university (college) or business school

Faculty

Master's programme

Title of thesis

Promotor(s)

Grade of thesis

By signing the inscription form:

- I/we agree with the rules of the contest
- I/we confirm that the information stated is correct

Date:

Signature(s):