



EFFS Award for the best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences Call 2023-2024

1. The European Federation for Freshwater Sciences (EFFS) is seeking nominations for the EFFS Award for the **best PhD Dissertation in Freshwater Sciences**, which will recognize outstanding scientific and intellectual work in the field of Freshwater Sciences performed by Early Career Researchers in Europe.
2. Possible **applicants** to this award must be authors of doctoral theses presented in Europe dealing with Freshwater Sciences **during the biennium 2023-2024**. For candidates that have presented their theses in European countries where the EFFS-federated societies are based, the applicant must be a **member of an association federated to the European Federation for Freshwater Sciences (EFFS)**. For candidates that have developed and presented their PhD thesis in European countries other than those where the EFFS-federated societies are based should refer to **annex 1 to check their eligibility** and submission rules. The PhD dissertation can be written in any European language.
3. **Regular application procedure:** applicants should submit their **application** to the EFFS-Federated Society of the European country where they have defended their PhD thesis, even if they are affiliated to a different EFFS-Federated Society. Anyhow, the **affiliation to a EFFS federated society** must be confirmed by a written **certificate** issued by the secretary of the EFFS-Federated Society she/he is affiliated with, that has to be provided with the rest of the documents of the application. Further, in the application, a complete copy of the **PhD dissertation in PDF format must be accompanied** by an **extended abstract in English** (max 6 printed pages, Arial 11pt, single spaced, and containing a maximum of 4 figures). The extended abstract must be **signed by the supervisor(s) and the candidate**, and a separate document should be provided containing a **list of publications** resulting from the PhD work including their DOI. **Candidacies submitted without these documents will not be considered for further evaluation**, since the evaluation will be mainly based on the extended abstract and publication list as both are written in English.
4. Each EFFS-Federated Society will perform a **pre-selection** among the applications received according to the common rules, time schedule and evaluation criteria of this call. These **evaluation criteria** are: **scientific/technological quality** (score 0-25), **originality** (0-25), **methodological approach** (0-25),

- relevance and potential scientific impact** of the work carried out (0-25).
5. For this call, the PhD thesis must have been **defended between January 1st 2023 and December 31st 2024**.
 6. **Each EFFE-Federated Society** can submit **up to two selected PhD dissertations** for the final evaluation, **not later than February 10th, 2025**. This number can be increased proportionally for those Associations officially representing more than one European country at EFFE (e.g. AIL collects both Spanish and Portuguese theses and the number of dissertations can be 4, a maximum of 2 per country). In any case, **no more than four dissertations can be presented by each association**. Once selected by the EFFE-federated Society, the required documents for each of the selected PhD dissertations must be submitted before the deadline, by the corresponding national representative, to the EFFE Chairperson, in a single message attaching all documents for the society's candidates.
 7. The final evaluation will be carried out by an **international jury** with the final decision delivered around the second half of **March 2025**. Members of the jury are identified among the members of the Board of Representatives at EFFE or scientists designated by the EFFE-federated associations. The evaluation is based on the criteria and scores specified in point 4 (above), given by this jury to the extended abstract in English and the publications collected in the accompanying list (point 3).
 8. There will be **one main and two subsidiary prizes**. The **main prize** includes an invitation to deliver a **plenary lecture** at the upcoming Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS-14) in Bolu, Türkiye, with **all expenses covered** (conference fee, travel, and accommodation). Additionally, the prize will include a **diploma**, which may be further complemented with items of scientific interest. During this meeting, the awarded author, who is **exempt from registering for SEFS-14** but should confirm his/her/their attendance directly with the organizers, will deliver a dedicated plenary lecture on his/her/their PhD dissertation topic. The winners of the **subsidiary prizes** (second and third place) will receive a **diploma** and a grant covering the **SEFS-registration fee** to SEFS-14. However, they are **required to register for the event**
 9. Award recipients will be **notified** approximately **three months before** the opening session of SEFS-14.
 10. An **awards ceremony** will take place just **before the dedicated plenary lecture**. In addition to the plenary lecture delivered by the main prize winner, a **6-page summary of the three awarded theses** will be published on both the EFFE website (<http://www.freshwatersciences.eu>) and the SEFS-14 website (<https://www.sefs14.com/>). Along with the summaries, a **poster** summarizing **each of the three awarded theses** may be exhibited during the SEFS-14 **poster sessions**. Posters must be provided by the authors.

Annex 1.

The rules outlined in Annex 1 apply specifically to **candidates who are not members of any EFFE-federated society** and have developed and presented their PhD theses in European countries where

no EFFS-affiliated societies are based. EFFS-affiliated societies are present in the following European countries: Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, and United Kingdom.

The simplest option for these candidates is to join any of the existing EFFS-affiliated societies (see <https://www.freshwatersciences.eu/effs/index.asp?page=MEMBERS&Id=6> & <https://www.freshwatersciences.eu/effs/index.asp?page=MEMBERS&Id=6&p=2&lastID=10>). By doing so, they can apply and be considered under the same selection procedure as candidates from the country where the EFFS-federated society is based. In this case, they would be treated as a “**home candidate**”, even if their PhD thesis was presented in a European country without an EFFS-federated society.

Applications from candidates who have **developed and presented their PhD theses in European countries without an EFFS-federated society**, and who have NOT joined an EFFS-federated society, will be treated in a special category of **individual application**. For these, the same rules apply, and the same documents must accompany the application, but these individual applications should be sent **directly to the EFFS chairperson** and secretary **by e-mail** (Chairperson: Simon Johnson, sjohnson@fba.org.uk; Secretary Mary Kelly-Quinn, mary.kelly-quinn@ucd.ie) and will be pre-assessed by independent persons appointed by the EFFS. An individual application is not possible for candidates who have developed their theses in a country with an affiliated organisation, as they are subject to the regular procedure. The independent jury will select **up to two of these** (non-affiliated) theses to proceed to the main competition – this is the same situation for member organisations, which can submit two theses.

For countries with an EFFS-federated society, the country in which the thesis was registered at a University is considered the home country of the applicant – and not the personal nationality of the candidate, who should join the national EFFS-federated society before submitting their application. For example, Bulgarian candidates registered at a German University would necessarily have to apply through the German association (DGL), while Bulgarian candidates who have completed their thesis at a Bulgarian University would be eligible for the individual application procedure, unless they join any EFFS-federated society, for which they would then be considered home candidates.