

IABSE Best PhD Thesis Award

1. Definition: The IABSE Best PhD Award shall recognize an outstanding original dissertation in the field of bridge and structural engineering by an individual who earned a doctoral degree within the last three calendar years prior to the year of the award. A candidate included in the shortlist must become an IABSE member to be considered for the award. Maximum one award shall be given annually and may not be awarded every year.

Only one dissertation may be nominated by any National Group, (and nominations for the award shall remain automatically on the candidature list as long as the candidate qualifies for the above year-wise temporal window, unless replaced by another nominee by the National Group. – *as in Standing Orders of OPAC*)

2. Submission documents

All documents shall be submitted in English.

1. **Nomination form** signed by NG Chair, including names, addresses, and email addresses of nominator, nominee and a supporting letter, and nomination statement of 200 words setting out why the candidate should receive the award. It may include university education, position held, technical and professional society memberships of the nominee. Individual candidates from countries without IABSE NG can also apply to the secretariat and shall be initially evaluated for consideration by the Awards Jury.
2. **An extended abstract** (in English) of no more than 2000 words which should outline the subject of the thesis, its main findings and arguments, its principal conclusions, and may include a list of refereed publications resulting directly from the dissertation.
3. **A supporting letter** from an IABSE member (in English). This shall include a critical review stating the value of the dissertation in terms of its originality, significance, and potential applications in the field of bridge and structural engineering.
4. **A pdf version of the dissertation.** The Jury may select 3-5 finalists (shortlist) through a preliminary evaluation of **extended abstracts** and **supporting letters** and may ask the finalists to submit a **pdf version of the dissertation** (English version).

3. Jury

Members: The jury shall be the same as for OPAC (Outstanding Paper Awards). The chair of the OPAC shall have freedom to decide on the procedures for the selection process.

Main items to be appreciated by the jury:

1. Originality and technical depth of research
2. Significance of contribution to the field of bridge and structural engineering
3. Potential applications in the field of bridge and structural engineering
4. Quality of presentation – The Jury and IABSE may decide to have a presentation session dedicated to candidates for the best PhD award during a Congress or Symposium so that the Jury can verify their reviews at the session.

4. Presentation ceremony: at an ordinary Permanent Committee meeting or in conjunction with an IABSE Congress or Symposium, the President of IABSE will present a Certificate titled “IABSE *Best PhD Thesis in bridge and structural engineering*”.

5. Privileges: The winner shall receive a recognition diploma, and PhD summary shall be printed in the next IABSE SEI journal.