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# Sustainability Award for final thesis projects

## In brief

The University of Bayreuth's Governing Board and GreenCampus, in cooperation with the Universitätsverein Bayreuth, are once again awarding a Sustainability Award for final thesis projects. A total of three prizes will be awarded: 400 € for first place, 300 € for second place, and 200 € for third place. The closing date for applications is 15 September 2021. The award is presented annually.

## Background

Global changes that lead to a sustainable way of life are the central challenge of our time. In order to be able to meet the most pressing questions of our society with sustainable solutions, research and teaching relating to sustainable development are crucial. Final thesis projects play a key role in identifying such solutions and analysing them from an ecological, economic, and socio-cultural standpoint.

## Sustainability Award

The Sustainability Award honours an outstanding and forward-looking final thesis (bachelor's or master's thesis or an equivalent academic achievement such as seminar papers, admissions thesis, etc.), on a research

topic that is oriented toward the United Nations' goals of sustainable development ([www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)) and which deal theoretically or practically with securing sustainable ecological development.

The call for applications is explicitly directed at students of all faculties. The prize is awarded at the President's Dinner of the University of Bayreuth. The winners will be expected to attend this event in November 2021.

The Sustainability Award for graduate work creates incentives for scientific debate on sustainable development issues. It increases the visibility of good teaching and research that exists at the University of Bayreuth and its relevance for society.

## Application criteria

Applications are open to students and alumni of the University of Bayreuth who completed their degree in the previous two academic years (1 October 2019 to 15 September 2021).

The decisive factor in the selection of the award winner is the extent to which the thesis provides a theoretically or practically relevant and outstanding research contribution to sustainable development. Even if the focus lies on

the students' own applications, all thesis supervisors are called upon to encourage their graduates to apply.

The application includes a cover letter, a copy of the degree certificate, the final thesis, a short letter of recommendation from the main supervisor of the final thesis, a one-page abstract that can be understood by the general public, and a brief appraisal of the thesis (up to one page) with respect to its scientific relevance, practical relevance, local relevance, global relevance, and innovation. The appraisal does not directly influence how the prizes are awarded, but rather serves as orientation for the jury.

The abstract should summarize the approach and the central findings of the thesis, address the understanding of sustainability in the thesis, and in particular the extent to which the thesis makes a relevant research contribution in terms of sustainable development. The abstract should also clearly illustrate how the thesis relates to the sustainable development goals of the United Nations.

The letter of recommendation should provide the jury with an expert review of the thesis and give an assessment with regard to the relevance of the work for sustainable development.

All application documents (cover letter, one-page abstract of the final thesis, the appraisal, the thesis, degree certificate, letter of recommendation) must be sent as a PDF file to the following e-mail address by 15.09.2021: [nachhaltigkeitspreis@uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:nachhaltigkeitspreis@uni-bayreuth.de)

The applications will be evaluated by a jury consisting of members of the University Governing Board, the Student Parliament, the Universitätsverein, and GreenCampus.

Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible  
President of the University of Bayreuth