

ESTABLISHED  
By Order No. 108 of the Vice-Rector for Research of 9 December 2024  
AMENDED  
By Order No. 126 of the Vice-Rector for Research of 12 December 2025

## **Statute of the University-wide Student Research Competition of Tallinn University**

1. The aim of the competition is to value and stimulate student research and to recognise students and their supervisors who have achieved outstanding research results.
2. The competition and related activities are organised by the Research Administration Office.
3. Participants can submit Bachelor's, Master's, doctoral and diploma theses defended during the previous academic year and research publications published in the calendar year preceding the academic year of the competition and whose sole or first author is the student or alumni submitting the thesis. Entries must be submitted electronically by 15 January at the latest to [teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee](mailto:teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee). Bachelor's, Master's, doctoral and diploma theses can be downloaded from the digital library ETERA ([etera.ee](http://etera.ee)). Research publications can be brought as physical copies to the Research Administration Office, if necessary, by agreement with the contact person of the competition.
4. To take part in the competition you need to submit:
  - 1) the thesis (in the case of a doctoral thesis, the thesis must be accompanied by an extract from the minutes of the defence committee meeting);
  - 2) in the case of a research publication, in addition to the publication itself, the title of the journal or publisher, volume, place and date of publication shall be provided, and, preferably, the expected classification of the publication according to the Estonian Research Information System (hereinafter *ETIS*) publication classifier. A research publication is considered to be a publication with the ETIS classification 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1 or 3.2.;
  - 3) the author's consent to the submission of the work to the competition and confirmation of having read the terms and conditions of the competition, either electronically or on paper if the work is not submitted by the author;
  - 4) the author's contact details (contact phone and e-mail address).
5. Entries will be assessed in four categories:
  - 1) doctoral theses;
  - 2) Master's theses;
  - 3) diploma and Bachelor's theses;
  - 4) research publications.
6. The competition for diploma theses, Bachelor's and Master's theses and research publications is held in the following fields:
  - 1) educational innovation;
  - 2) digital and media culture;

- 3) cultural competences;
  - 4) healthy and sustainable lifestyles;
  - 5) society and open government.
7. The competition for doctoral theses is held in the following fields:
  - 1) natural and exact sciences;
  - 2) social sciences (including education and health sciences);
  - 3) humanities (including history and arts).
8. The prizes will be defined by order of the Vice-Rector for Research. The cost of the prizes will be covered by the research fund of the University.
9. The Vice-Rector for Research shall form subcommittees by fields of research. Each subcommittee is composed of at least three members from the relevant field. The members of the committee shall be proposed by the institute to the Research Administration Office no later than 12 January. The subcommittee elects a chairperson from among its members, who, after the evaluation of the works, submits the minutes of the meeting and the decision on the work(s) that won to the Research Administration Office. For the evaluation of doctoral theses, a joint committee will be set up, consisting of one member from each subcommittee.
10. In each category of works (pursuant to Clause 5), one first-place prize, one second-place prize and one third-place prize shall generally be awarded in each field (pursuant to Clause 6). In the doctoral thesis category, one prize will be awarded for the best thesis in each field (as defined in Clause 7). Depending on the quality of the entries, the subcommittee may decide not to award some prizes or to award two first-place prizes, in which case the prize fund for the first-place will be divided in half.
11. A meeting of the subcommittee is quorate if at least 2/3 of its members are present. Decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority in an open vote. In the event of a tie, the chairperson's vote shall be decisive. Attendance at the meeting will be recorded and minutes of the meeting will be taken, indicating the winning entry in each category, as well as the second and third place entries:
  - 1) the author's name and surname, study programme and contact details;
  - 2) the title of the work and, in the case of a research publication, in addition to the publication itself, the title of the journal or publisher, volume, place and date of publication shall be provided, and, preferably, the expected classification of the publication according to the Estonian Research Information System (hereinafter *ETIS*) publication classifier;
  - 3) the job title, first name and surname of the supervisor (except for publications);
  - 4) in the case of a doctoral thesis, its series, the names of the opponents, the date of the defence and the composition of the defence committee.
12. The number of entries received in that field are added to the minutes of each subcommittee.
13. The subcommittee will submit the minutes of the meeting, together with a motivated decision on the award, to the Research Administration Office at [teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee](mailto:teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee) by 10 February at the latest.

14. The results of the competition and the justifications for selecting the winning entries shall be announced on the University's website and in the newsletters by 15 February at the latest.
15. Winners of the competition (except winners in the research publications category) will be asked to submit a summary of their winning work in the form of a popular science article of approximately two A4 pages (approx. 3600 characters) with the title of the work in English. It is to be submitted electronically to the Research Administration Office at [teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee](mailto:teaduskorraldus@tlu.ee) by 17 March at the latest. [Amended 12.12.2025]
16. Prizes will be awarded to the winners once the article has been received. Relevant information will be sent to each winner individually.
17. Research publications submitted to the Research Administration Office will be returned to the students after the competition committee meeting.