

Regulation for the Thoolen NJCM-Thesis Award

Requirements

1. Participation is open to all former and current students of a university level academic education, of which at least a component was completed in the Netherlands. To be considered eligible, the dissertation must have been written in the last two academic years, and must have received at least a Dutch ‘8’ grade equivalency by an officially recognized university. An academic year runs from the 1st of September until the 1st of September of the subsequent year.
2. Participants are expected to be both aware of, and in agreement with the eligibility requirements in this regulation.
3. In the case of participation of a relative of one of the members of the commission of readers, this member will be replaced by a reserve-member. In the case of a (former) student who is supervised by one of the members of the commission of readers, this member shall likewise be replaced by a reserve-member.
4. The submitted dissertation must be:
 - a. written in either Dutch or English;
 - b. a dissertation with a human-rights based subject and in a direct relation to constitutional or internationally recognized human rights;
 - c. submitted in 4 copies;
 - d. handed in on paper and professionally bound. The number of pages may not exceed 60 A4’s of text (i.e. with a maximum of 27.000 words, not including table of contents and bibliography, but it does include footnotes), with a format of 1.5 line spacing;
 - e. digitally available on request;
 - f. accompanied by an official document of approval of the dissertation by the supervising professor;
 - g. accompanied by a covering letter including the following specifics: Name and surname of the author, address, telephone-number, educational establishment, and direction of study of the author;
 - h. handed in at the NJCM-secretariat at the latest before the 1st of November of each odd calendar-year, starting with 2005. Submissions of dissertations received after the 1st of November of the year concerned shall not be considered for the dissertation prize. For the 2019 edition there is an adjusted deadline: **December 1st, 2019. Please note that the deadlines mentioned under rule 6 will therefore be postponed with a month.**

Rights of the participants

5. The copyrights of the submitted dissertations will remain with the authors. The participants will nevertheless grant NJCM the right to hand over the dissertation to the University of Leiden after the result of the competition. Should the commission of readers wish to do so, the dissertation may be placed in the library of the University and hereby be accessible to the public.

Procedure

6. Procedure:
 - a. Within 14 days on receipt of the dissertation, the author shall receive a confirmation of receipt by the NJCM-secretariat.
 - b. A shortlist of maximum ten nominated dissertations will be announced by the commission of readers at the latest on the 1st of January of the calendar-year subsequent to submission of the dissertation.
 - c. The commission of readers shall pronounce the winner at the latest on the 1st of February of that same year.
 - d. All participants shall be personally notified of the result before February the 7th of the year concerned.
 - e. The prize shall be presented by the chairman of the commission of readers at the latest on the 15th of March.
 - f. Correspondence with regards to the results shall not take place.
7. The commission of readers consists of five to seven members and two reserve-members, all of whom have established themselves in the field of human rights in a particularly deserving manner. The members of the commission of readers are appointed by the board of the Association of NCJM.
8. The dissertations will be assessed on the following criteria:
 - a. originality of the chosen human-rights based theme and the development thereof;
 - b. academic level;
 - c. degree of innovative insight;
 - d. accessibility.
9. The prize consists of the publication of the dissertation in the form of a book. The winner will receive 25 copies.
10. In the case of unforeseen situations not covered by this regulation, it is the chairman of the commission of readers who shall pronounce a decision.