

Sustainability Award for Theses –

General Information and Criteria

I. Overview

- At least one and up to three awards will be granted in each of the following categories:
 - a. **Bachelor's degree**
 - b. **Master's degree** (or equivalent degrees such as state examinations)
- One award will be granted in the **dissertation** category.
- Applications will be evaluated by a jury composed of members of the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development and, where appropriate, additional subject matter experts.
- If supervisors are members of the jury, they will abstain from discussions and evaluations of any work they have supervised.

II. Criteria

- The thesis must have received a grade of at least “good” (2.0).
 - a) The **explanatory overview** (two to three pages) should demonstrate that the thesis is convincing beyond its own discipline and in its relevance to sustainable development: explanation of the methodology and the understanding of sustainability
 - b) The thesis makes a theoretically or practically relevant and outstanding research contribution to sustainable development
 - c) Creativity of the thesis: identifying and addressing research gaps
 - d) Transferability and applicability of the thesis: relevance for practice and potential application to other fields
 - e) Conceptual and self reflection of the applicant:
Critical reflection on the question “What does my topic have to do with sustainable development?”; centrality of the topic of sustainable development within the thesis
- Additional criterion: connections to other disciplines: Interdisciplinary approaches and the relevance of interdisciplinary aspects within the thesis
- The thesis itself does not have to be interdisciplinary, but it must demonstrate connections in the sense described above, which should be outlined in the overview.

III. Submission Documents

- Cover letter
- Thesis
- Explanatory overview (Section II: Criteria)
- Letter of recommendation for the Sustainability Award for Theses from the supervisor (not the thesis evaluation report)
- Copy of the (preliminary) degree certificate