

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD FOR THESES

THE AWARD: CONCEPT AND CRITERIA

Each year, the University of Tübingen announces the Sustainability Award for Theses. The challenge of sustainable development is to develop solutions for a globally just and sustainable future of our society that integrate ecological, economic, and socio cultural perspectives.

The Sustainability Award for Theses recognizes up to three bachelor's and master's theses (or equivalent academic work) and one dissertation each year. The call is explicitly open to students from all disciplines. The awards are endowed with 300 euros for bachelor's theses, 500 euros for master's theses, and 1,000 euros for the dissertation, and are presented annually at an official ceremony. Award recipients are expected to attend this event on November 24, 2026, and briefly present their work.

The Sustainability Award for Theses creates incentives for academic engagement with issues of sustainable development and highlights excellent teaching and research at the University of Tübingen, as well as their relevance to society.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

Applications for this year's Sustainability Award for Theses are open until September 15, 2026. All students and alumni of the University of Tübingen are eligible to apply if they have completed a thesis graded at least "good" (2.0) within the previous two academic years (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026).

The key selection criterion is the extent to which the thesis provides a theoretically or practically relevant and outstanding contribution to sustainable development.

Although the focus is on student self applications, all thesis supervisors are encouraged to motivate their graduates to apply.

The application must include a cover letter, a copy of the degree certificate, the thesis, a brief letter of recommendation from the thesis supervisor, and a two to three page explanatory overview. This overview should briefly summarize the methodology and key findings of the thesis, outline its understanding of sustainability, and in particular explain the extent to which the work makes a relevant research contribution to sustainable development. The letter of recommendation should provide the jury with an academic assessment of the thesis and include an evaluation of its relevance for sustainable development.

Complete application materials (cover letter, letter of recommendation, explanatory overview, thesis, and degree certificate) must be submitted electronically by September 15, 2026 to the following address:

nachhaltigkeitspreis@uni-tuebingen.de

Applications will be evaluated by a jury composed of members of the Advisory Board for Sustainable Development and, where appropriate, additional subject matter experts.

Prof. Dr. Karin Amos,
Vice-President for Teaching and Learning

Prof. Dr. Samuel Wagner,
Vice President for Sustainable Development

