



BEST PHD THESIS AWARD 2024

OPEN CALL

The Belgian **National Committee for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (NCTAM)** is pleased to announce the 2024 edition of the **Award to distinguish a young scientist who has recently completed a PhD thesis in the field of Mechanics**.

In case the awarded thesis is in the field of Computational Methods, the thesis will also be officially presented to the **ECCOMAS ANNUAL AWARD FOR THE TWO BEST PhD THESES ON COMPUTATIONAL METHODS IN APPLIED SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING** (www.eccomas.org). In case the awarded thesis is NOT in the field of Computational Methods, another qualified thesis could be presented to the ECCOMAS Award.

The Application: Every person who has successfully defended a PhD thesis within the field of Mechanics in a broad sense in a Belgian University in 2024 qualifies for the Award and may submit an application.

An **Open Call** is launched, with the closing date on **January 28, 2025**. The application must be submitted **via email to bram.vanderborght@vub.be AND Anne.Habraken@uliege.be**. Applicants must include (in PDF format):

- An electronic copy of the thesis.
- A 1 page summary of the thesis.
- A Curriculum Vitae of the candidate.
- A motivation letter (max ½ page!)

A **reference person** should email a **one-page reference letter to bram.vanderborght@vub.be AND Anne.Habraken@uliege.be** (closing date: **January 28, 2025**). This reference person may NOT be the promoter/adviser or the co-promoter of the PhD thesis, but he/she may be a member of the jury. In this maximum 1 page letter, the reference person must comment on:

- What are the personal and original contributions of the thesis?
- Why is the thesis outstanding (most important item!)?
- What are the strong and the weak points of both the thesis and the candidate?
- What is the potential impact of the thesis on the scientific community?
- How is the thesis related to computational methods (in case the candidate intends to apply to the ECCOMAS PhD Award too)?

Other comments are also welcome.

First Selection: Based on the previous documents, a first selection will be made by the Executive Committee of NCTAM in order to determine a short-list of candidates. Retained candidates on the short-list will be informed by email before **February 6, 2025**. They will then have to prepare a short movie where the candidate explains why his/her thesis is outstanding. **Candidates not willing to prepare this movie should avoid applying to the present award.** There is no further indication/recommendation about this movie except that its duration is maximum 10 minutes and that the movie must be received by email no later than **March 6, 2025**. **Deadlines are sharp! Applications and movies received later will not enter in the selection procedure. The language for the whole procedure (application, reference letter, movie...) is English.**

Award Decision: The NCTAM Executive Committee will select the awardee and communicate the decision. The NCTAM Executive Committee is the sole judge of the whole procedure and the decisions are final. The awardee will be invited to present his/her work to the scientific community during the next edition of the Belgian National Congress for Theoretical and Applied Mechanics during which the award winner will be officially announced.