

Announcement

Student Award 2026

On the occasion of the **29th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and SMEs** (G-Forum 2026), FGF promotes early-career researchers in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation, and SMEs and presents the “**Student Award 2026**” for the first time, which is endowed with the coverage of the G-Forum participation fee, up to a maximum of €490.

The **thematically open** award in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation, SMEs, or family businesses is aimed at authors of master's theses related to the above-mentioned topics who submit their thesis together with the assessment report and a recommendation from their supervisor to G-Forum 2026 in Cottbus. Award recipients will have the opportunity to present their master's thesis to a professional audience at the largest and most renowned German-speaking entrepreneurship conference.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applications must be initiated by the students themselves.
- Eligible are master's theses submitted to the university between May 10, 2025, and May 10, 2026, with the assessment process fully completed.

Selection Process

The award winner will be determined in a two-step selection process. In the first stage, the submitted documents will be reviewed and evaluated.

The selection and evaluation criteria for the submitted master's theses are:

1. Relevance for research and practice in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation, SMEs, or family businesses
2. Conceptual strength
3. Methodology
4. Originality
5. Intelligibility

In the second stage, the authors of the **three best theses** from the first review stage will be nominated for the **Student Award 2026**. From these nominated theses, the final selection of the award winner will be made by a jury.

Submission guidelines

- Full master's thesis in **anonymized form**
- Submissions may be made in **German** or **English**
- Abstract/summary of no more than 1,000 words (excluding references), **anonymized**, ideally structured as follows:
 - Research problem (research gap / objectives)
 - Theoretical foundation
 - Methodology (including empirical context, if applicable)
 - Results
 - Implications for research and practice
- Official assessment report of the master's thesis
- A brief, unsubstantiated recommendation from the thesis supervisor
- Indication in the [conference tool](#) in the comments field: **Application Student Award**

Submission forms

Completed and fully assessed master's theses, together with all required documents, may be submitted as a **PDF file** via the [conference tool](#) from now **until May 10, 2026**. Authors are expected to be informed about their nomination for the Student Award in **early August 2026**.

Presentation of nominated theses and award ceremony

- Authors of the best theses will be invited to participate in G-Forum 2026 free of charge (travel and accommodation expenses must be covered by the authors themselves) and are required to present their master's thesis at the conference.
- The announcement of the award winner and the award ceremony will take place during the conference dinner at G-Forum 2026 in Cottbus on September 17, 2026

For further information, please contact the FGF office via email at info@fgf-ev.de.