

## UNIL-EPFL Durabilis AWARD

The objectives of the UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award are:

- a) to reward Bachelor and Master level student projects which integrate **sustainability considerations**<sup>1</sup>
- b) to award prizes amounting to maximum **CHF 10,000** per year
- c) to **promote** the prize-winning projects.

### 1. Terms of Application

Any EPFL or UNIL student may enter written Bachelor or Master level projects which comply with the following cumulative conditions:

- a) integrate **sustainability considerations** in the framework of a mandatory or optional EPFL or UNIL course carrying a number of ECTS credits
- b) obtain a mark of at least 5 out of 6 from the lecturer in charge, including for work awarded a certificate<sup>2</sup>
- c) carried out **individually** or by a **group of maximum 4 persons**; groups combining EPFL/UNIL students and/or members of different schools/faculties are encouraged<sup>3</sup>.

In the case of students exmatriculated after obtaining their UNIL or EPFL Bachelor or Master's degree, the written project must have been completed during their study curriculum, no later than one calendar year before its submission for the Award<sup>4</sup>.

N.B.: Students may participate in the UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award several times in the course of the same academic year, provided that they submit different projects. In this case, an application shall be submitted for each project (Cf. i Item 3).

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<sup>1</sup> There are several definitions of sustainability. The UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award does not promote one over the other.

<sup>2</sup> In case the project is not intended to be marked according to the study plan, students shall provide a recommendation from the lecturer in charge attesting to the excellence of their work.

<sup>3</sup> In case only part of the authors of the written project enter the competition, they shall be responsible for notifying the other co-authors of their application.

<sup>4</sup> For example: a student who obtained his Master project mark in September 2013 may submit an application up until August 2014, but may no longer do so if the mark was awarded in June 2013.

## 2. Types of Projects<sup>5</sup> Competing for the Award and Selection Criteria

### 2.1 Projects integrating sustainability considerations

These projects fall within three categories:

- a) they may deal with sustainability-related topics on a local, regional or more global (national, international) scale
- b) they may deal with research topics in any specialised field provided that they integrate sustainability considerations
- c) they may integrate considerations of sustainability of the EPFL/UNIL site operation.

### 2.2 The Jury shall award prizes to the selected projects as follows:

- An **initial shortlist** of applications is selected based on the popularised summary set out in Article 3 below, taking into account the following questions:

- Is the project part of a more global reflection on sustainability? Or does it include considerations which fit into a wider perspective than the field of expertise, relating to sustainability?
- Is there any reflection on the concept of sustainability itself?
- Has an analysis been made of the project's effects and impacts?

- **In a second stage**, the files shortlisted based on the popularised summary are analysed more in depth by the Jury which finalises the award of prizes. The Jury takes into account the nature of the programme in which the project presented was carried out and judges its content accordingly, differentiating between study levels (Bachelor or Master level projects).

## 3. Application File

In order to enrol, the students (or groups of students) shall submit an electronic version of the application file which shall include, in one of the Swiss national languages or in English:

- a) the project write-up
- b) a popularised summary of the project (c.f. below)
- c) the enrolment form completed and signed by the student or group of students
- d) the certificate signed by the lecturer who marked the project write-up or, if the project is not marked, with the recommendation by the lecturer in charge attesting to the work's excellence (as per Art. 1, letter b, c.f. footnote 2).

Students unable to provide an electronic version of the enrolment form and lecturer's signed certificate may send these by post (the date of the postmark being deemed the date of submission) or delivered personally (see addresses under Item 4 – Enrolment for the Award).

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<sup>5</sup> The student's work and popularised summary (see Item 3) constitute the project submitted for the Award.

## Popularised Summary

In order to be considered for the UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award, each project shall be accompanied by a popularised summary of **2 to 3 A4 pages (i.e. a maximum total of 6,000 characters)** detailing, among other things, how the work includes sustainability considerations. This therefore involves a science popularisation effort on the part of the student or group of students, which is essential for interdisciplinary projects.

## 4. Enrolment for the Award

Candidates enrol for the UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award by submitting an application file to:

the Research Associate for Educational Affairs *for EPFL students*:

Albertine Kolendowska  
EPFL VPAA DAF  
Centre Est  
Station 1  
1015 Lausanne  
[albertine.kolendowska@epfl.ch](mailto:albertine.kolendowska@epfl.ch)  
[Tel.: 021.693.51.20](tel:021.693.51.20)

the Assistant for Education and Student Affairs *for UNIL students*:

Nathalie Janz  
Université de Lausanne  
Bâtiment Unicentre  
Direction, bureau 322  
1015 Lausanne  
[nathalie.janz@unil.ch](mailto:nathalie.janz@unil.ch)  
[Tel.: 021.692.20.42](tel:021.692.20.42)

**latest by 31 August of each year.**

## 5. Prizes

The UNIL-EPFL Durabilis Award gives prizes amounting to maximum CHF 10,000 per year. There are two categories of prizes:

1. Master dissertation or Master project: CHF 1,000/winner
2. Other Bachelor or Master level projects: CHF 500/winner

For collective award-winning projects, each participant receives the prize amount. A student may receive several prizes for different projects enrolled for the Award.

The prizes are financed on an equal basis by EPFL and UNIL, regardless of which institution the students come from. The prizes may also be financed on the basis of external donations.

## 6. Jury

### 6.1 Composition of the Jury

The Jury is made up of minimum seven members:

- a) the Chairperson: a Vice Rector/Vice President or professor from EPFL or UNIL on an alternating basis, in principle for a period of 2 years. The Chairperson is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the award. The EPFL VPAA (Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs) and the UNIL Rectorate take it in turns to appoint the Chairperson of the Jury. In case the EPFL VPAA is nominated as Chairperson of the Jury, the appointment shall be made by the EPFL Presidency.
- b) a UNIL teaching staff member, an EPFL teaching staff member and two external members particularly knowledgeable about sustainability issues. Jury members are not entitled to vote on projects which they have personally marked or in any way supervised.
- c) a person responsible for sustainability at EPFL and a UNIL representative occupying a similar position.

In principle, at least two members of the Jury are women and at least two are men.

### 6.2 Jury Duties

- a) Following the process described in Article 2.2., the award Jury decides which projects are to be rewarded.
- b) The Jury takes into account the nature of the programme in which the project presented was carried out and judges its content accordingly, differentiating between study levels (Bachelor or Master level projects).
- c) The Jury issues a commendation consisting of approximately two sentences for each prize-winning project.

### 6.3 Other Provision

- a) There is no appeal possible against decisions made by the award Jury.

## 7. Promotion of Prize-Winning Projects and Prize-Giving

Subject to agreement by the prize-winners, the projects will be brought to public attention via articles (internal media) and posted on the UNIL and EPFL websites.

An award ceremony offers winners the possibility of briefly presenting their projects. They are awarded their prizes on the occasion of an event dedicated to sustainability. In principle, the Jury issues a commendation for each prize-winning project.

## **8. English Translation**

An English translation of this procedure is available to students. Only the French version shall be deemed authentic.

Approved by the UNIL Rectorate on 24 February 2014

Approved by the EPFL Vice Presidency for Academic Affairs on 27 February 2014