

RBSM vzw

PhD Award Rules

1. Description

§.1. RBSM intends to award up to three prizes annually to members who have successfully defended their PhD thesis on a microscopy-related subject in Belgium.

§.2. Preferentially there will be one award in each of the following three areas:

- Life Sciences,
- Physics and Material Sciences,
- Instrumentation and Methods.

However, the jury can decide not to give an award in any one of these areas, or to award more than one prize in one area, if deemed appropriate. Also, the jury can decide to award less than three prizes if there are insufficient high-quality nominations.

§.3. The award winners receive a certificate and 1,000€. The award winners will be announced during the annual RBSM member meeting or similar gathering. Awards are not divisible.

§.4. Nominations will be judged on their contribution to the advancement of microscopy in Belgium. This can include the development of new methods or instrumentation, application of existing methods in new fields of research, use of techniques new to Belgium, or the demonstration of the power of microscopy by extensive use of microscopy data. The term microscopy is used in a broad sense, including all techniques providing information with a spatial resolution better than the naked human eye, and supporting techniques such as image analysis. Other criteria include originality, quality of scientific work, and clarity of writing.

2. Eligibility criteria

§.5. Only registered RBSM members at least in their second year of membership who have paid their annual fee are eligible for the award.

§.6. The PhD theses should have been successfully defended within the period up to two calendar years preceding the submission deadline. For example, if the deadline is April 1, 2015, then PhD theses defended after January 1st, 2013, are eligible for an award.

§.7. Nominations that have not received an award can be resubmitted within the period described in §.6.

§.8. The prize cannot be awarded to candidates who already have been recipient of the award in a previous year.

§.9. Active Members of the Board cannot be nominated.

3. Submission procedure

§.10. Nominations can be submitted by the candidate him/herself, or by others, who are then responsible for the complete nomination file of the candidate.

§.11. The nomination file consists of the following documents:

- *Curriculum vitae* of the candidate;
- Complete bibliography of the candidate;
- PhD thesis;
- One-page motivation letter specifying:
 - The field (§.2) in which the candidate is applying, including a justification,
 - a summary of the main achievements of the thesis with emphasis on microscopy
 - an argumentation as to why the thesis deserves the RBSM award.

The nomination file should be submitted **electronically** to the RBSM Secretary. All documents have to be in **PDF format** and the candidate must provide a private valid e-mail address.

§.12. The deadline for submissions is April 1st of the year of the award, unless the Board decides on a different deadline, which will then be announced on the website and via the member mailing list, at least one month before the deadline.

4. Evaluation procedure

§.13. The RBSM Council acts as the jury and decides on the validity of the submissions and evaluates the submissions. The decisions of the Council are made by ordinary majority of votes. In case of equal number of votes, the President decides. The decisions made by the Council are irrevocable and are not subject to any correspondence.

§.14. Council members cannot participate in the evaluation and voting on nominees who belong to their research group, or with whom they have collaborated in the thesis work.
