

APREN Award - 11th Edition

Regulations

Article 1 – Scope

1 - The APREN Award aims to recognise the best academic dissertations, written in Portuguese or English, related to the development and use of renewable energy, carried out at higher education institutions in Portugal.

Article 2 - Thesis topics

2 - The topic of the master's theses should be related to direct and indirect electrification based on renewable resources, namely through promoting the development of the electricity sector from endogenous and renewable energy sources and the decarbonisation of sectors that are difficult to reduce in terms of carbon footprint, the associated technologies, their use, and the minimization of environmental impact throughout the value chain.

All dissertations related to the development of the renewable sector are covered, including transportation and distribution infrastructure, centralised and decentralised generation, flexibility mechanisms for managing electrical systems, storage, new business models and renewable energy sharing, and new regulatory approaches framed by the need to promote the decarbonization of the economy and increase energy efficiency.

These themes must be in line with the main pillars of the national and European energy strategy, alongside combating climate change, ensuring energy supply security, reindustrialization, the European single market, liberalization and democratization of the sector's value chain, increasing public participation, and achieving sustainable development for the country.

Article 3 - Applications

3.1 – For applications to be accepted, it is necessary that they meet the requirements and formalities described in points 3.2 to 3.11.

3.2 – For the 11th Edition of the APREN Award may apply authors of master's and doctoral dissertations completed, approved, and graded between December 1, 2024, and November 30, 2025, by higher education institutions in Portugal.

3.3 – The topic should fall within the scope described in point 2.1.

3.4 – APREN employees and their family members are prohibited from applying.

3.5 – Applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM on **January 23, 2026**.

3.6 – Regardless of the time limit mentioned in the previous point, and for logistical reasons, APREN will accept a maximum of 45 dissertations.

3.7 – Applications should be sent by email to APREN – Portuguese Renewable Energy Association, at comunicacao@apren.pt, indicating in the subject line “Application for the APREN Award 11th Edition”.

The following documentation must be attached:

- **A copy of the dissertation** – in PDF format;
- **A PowerPoint presentation** on the thesis topic, bearing in mind that the oral presentation should last 10 minutes in the case of master's theses, and 15 minutes in the case of doctoral theses.
- **Poster** according to the template available for download on the APREN website;
 - The posters will be displayed at the Award Ceremony and announcement of the winners;
- **Curriculum Vitae**, with a maximum of 2 pages;
- **Scientific publications**, associated with the dissertation (if any).

3.8 – The application email must also include:

- Subject: 'Application for the APREN Award 11th Edition';
- Name of the thesis author;
- Photocopy of the candidate's Citizen Card ¹;
- Candidate's address and phone contact;
- Dissertation title, grade, and respective completion date;
- Name of the educational institution and of the supervising teacher(s).

3.9 – Applying implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Regulations.

Article 4 - Processo de seleção e apresentação dos trabalhos

4.1 – The responsibility for assessing applications lies solely with the Jury, composed of individuals of recognised expertise, considering the following criteria:

- Technical and Scientific Robustness
- Quality of the thesis and the presentation
- Innovative character
- Potential and relevance of the topic

4.2 – The APREN Award Jury is composed of the following members:

- Jorge Vasconcelos, NEWES (Jury President);
- Ana Teresa Perez, ApC – Climate Agency;
- Bernardo Silva, FEUP – Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto;
- Lúgia Pinto, University of Minho;
- Margarita Robaina, University of Aveiro;
- Maria do Carmo Figueira, APA – Portuguese Environment Agency;
- Maria João Rodrigues, IST – Technical University of Lisbon;
- Miguel Brito, FCUL – Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon;

¹ The Citizen Card is requested solely for the purpose of identity verification, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We ensure that the data will be treated confidentially and used only for this purpose, being deleted after verification, in accordance with the principles of data minimisation and limited retention.

- Mónica Meireles, University of Aveiro;
- Nuno Souza e Silva, R&D Nester;
- Patrícia Fortes, FCT – Faculty of Science and Technology of NOVA University Lisbon;
- Paulo Martins, DGEG – Directorate-General for Energy and Geology;
- Pedro Carvalho, IST – Technical University of Lisbon;
- Pedro Horta, Universidade Évora;
- Sofia Simões, LNEG – National Laboratory of Energy and Geology.

4.3 – The Jury's decisions are final, with no possibility of any kind of appeal.

4.4 - The winning works will be announced at a ceremony to be held in the first quarter of 2026.

4.5 – All candidates for the Prize will have the opportunity to display their poster at the award ceremony, in a dedicated Exhibition area, and in accordance with the instructions from the organizers to be communicated in due course.

Article 5 - Recognition and awards

5.1 – The winners and any honorable mentions will have free access to APREN events held during the year 2026.

5.2 – The 2 awards and any honorable mentions will be announced during the award ceremony.

5.3 – The monetary value of the prizes will be:

- Doctorate:
 - €5,500 for the winning doctoral dissertation.
 - €3,500 for the second-best doctoral dissertation.
- Master's degree:
 - €4,000 for the winning master's thesis.
 - €2,000 for the second-best master's thesis.

5.4 – If the Jury considers that the submitted works do not meet the criteria outlined in point 4.1, the prizes and/or honorable mentions may not be awarded, in whole or in part.

Article 6º - Right over the dissertations

6.1 – APREN reserves the right to publish the works submitted to the competition in any media it deems appropriate, without having to request prior authorization and without any copyright fees being required.