

IA|BE Prize 2026: Rules of Participation

Article 1: IA|BE prize 2026

1.1 The goal of the IA|BE Prize 2026 is to reward master theses that focus on research and/or practical applications in actuarial science and/or actuarial practice, provided they meet the criteria outlined in Article 2.

1.2 For the presentation of the IABE 2026 Prize, all members of the Institute as well as the final-year students of the actuarial science programs established in Belgium are invited.

Article 2: Eligibility Criteria

2.1 Master theses successfully defended during the 2024-2025 academic year as part of an actuarial science program at a Belgian university are eligible.

2.2 Participants must submit to contact@iabe.be electronically by no later than **March 31, 2026**:

1. A copy of the master's thesis.
2. An anonymous version of the thesis, with the student's name, university name, and any confidential data removed.
3. A brief curriculum vitae.
4. A copy of an official document from the supervisor showing the grade awarded to the thesis.

2.3 The authors of the winning theses must be available to briefly present their thesis at an event, either as described in 1.2 or another relevant event.

Article 3: Evaluation Criteria

The master theses will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Scientific quality:** Originality, contribution to the scientific knowledge of the topic, rigorous scientific foundation (methodology), understanding of relevant literature, and responsible use of sources.
- **Relevance:** The extent to which the thesis provides new insights into broader developments or practical applications in actuarial science and/or the surrounding society.
- **Stylistic quality:** Correct and engaging language, an interesting treatment of the topic, and a well-structured presentation.

Article 4: Evaluation Process in three rounds

4.1 **Round 1:** After all master theses are received, the Chairperson of the Education Committee, with the help of the Permanent Secretariat, will perform an initial evaluation.



If there is uncertainty about which theses should move to the next round, the supervisor may be consulted for additional advice.

- 4.2 **Round 2:** Each thesis will be read by at least two reviewers, IA|BE members. Each reviewer will assess the thesis using the Round 2 evaluation form (see Appendix 1).
- 4.3 **Round 3:** A jury consisting of the IA|BE Chairperson, the IA|BE Vice-Chairperson, the Chair of the IA|BE Education Committee, and up to four other IA|BE members (who are not reviewers in Round 2) will evaluate the oral presentation of the thesis. After the oral presentation, jury members may ask the participant questions about their thesis. The presentation and questioning will take approximately 45 minutes. Each jury member will evaluate the presentation using the Round 3 evaluation form. The final ranking will be determined based on the evaluations from the Round 2 reviewers and the Round 3 jury members. In case of a tie, the evaluations from Round 3 will determine the outcome. The ranking established by the Round 3 jury is final.

Article 5: Prizes

The three master theses with the highest overall evaluation will receive the following prizes, in descending order: EUR 1,500, EUR 1,000, and EUR 500.

Article 6: Final Provisions

- 6.1 Participants adhere to and agree with the content of these Rules of Participation.
- 6.2 Any matters not covered by these Rules of Participation will be decided by the Round 3 jury.
- 6.3 Changes to the Rules of Participation will be proposed by the IA|BE Education Committee and approved by the IA|BE Board.