

# FOCAPD Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

The Foundations of Computer Aided Chemical Engineering 2024 Conference is pleased to announce the Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation. The goal of the award is to recognize an outstanding contribution to the field by a PhD Candidate arising from PhD research.

## Eligibility

Award recipients must have successfully published and defended their PhD between January 1, 2019 and the submission deadline. Award winners, nominees, and applicants are highly encouraged but not required to attend the conference. The dissertation and all nomination/application materials must be written in English.

## Scope

The dissertation must be within the scope of the FOCAPD 2024 conference (chemical process and product design).

## Award

Award recipients will receive a certificate, a speaking slot at the FOCAPD conference, and free conference registration.

## Judging Process

The award uses a two-stage process. The first stage is an open call for nominations from anywhere in the general chemical process and product design community. Candidates can either self-nominate, or nominations can be sent by a third party. The awards committee will review the nominations and select five<sup>1</sup> who will be invited to submit an application to the second stage.

## Timelines

- **July 1, 2023** – Nomination period opens. 1-Page nominations accepted.
- **September 15, 2023** – Nomination period closes. Applications must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time (New York) on this date.
- **October 1, 2023** – Committee notifies nominees of decision to invite or not to invite to submit a full application. Invitees may receive requests for additional information or suggestions on what to include in the full application.
- **January 8, 2024** – Full applications due (by invitation only).

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<sup>1</sup> The award managers reserve the right to change the number of invitations depending on the quality and number of submissions received.

- **March 1, 2024** – Applicants notified of final decision.

## Nomination Instructions

Nominations should consist of a single page, including text, figures, and references, submitted as a PDF file using the [\[Word template provided\]](#). We recommend making it as easy as possible for the awards committee to understand why the nominee should be considered for this award. The nomination should clearly explain why the nominee should be considered according to the quality criteria listed below. It should cover at least these four concepts, clearly noted:

- Problem addressed
- State of the art
- Key innovations
- Impact on the field

The nomination should also include a list of three referees who will be asked to provide a support letter if the nomination is invited for a full application. Referees should not submit letters at this time.

The nomination should also include the name and address of the nominee and nominator (if different) and the title and date of the thesis.

Submissions should be made through the CONFEX system at the link posted on the conference website.

## Full Application Instructions (by invitation only)

The full application should consist of:

- A written application by the nominee of up to five pages, including text, figures, and references, submitted as a PDF file. Font size should be no smaller than 10pt, no smaller than single spacing, and margins no smaller than 0.75 inches on letter/A4 paper. The written application should clearly explain why the award should be granted according to the quality criteria listed below, in more detail than in the nomination. A template will be provided to those invited to apply.
- Brief supporting letters of recommendation from three referees, which further elaborate on or support the written application.
- A PDF copy of the thesis itself.

## Quality Criteria

We want to identify the PhD thesis that has made the biggest contribution to the field. This contribution can take many forms, such as (but not limited to): commercialization; adoption by others in the form of business practices, teaching methods, research methods, procedures, educational content, etc.; advances in the knowledge of the field itself; contributions that address significant research gaps; the solving of notoriously difficult problems; and more.

Publication in journals and the impact factor of those journals are not themselves evidence of impact, although they obviously can help lead to impact. Citations can be evidence of impact but the simple number of citations is not. Rather, the nominee must demonstrate how their work impacts others in a meaningful way. Furthermore, at the level of the full application, the nominee should make clear what was their own personal contributions as opposed to those of their mentors, collaborators, and others in their network.

## Awards Committee

The conference co-chairs shall appoint a committee made up of FOCAPD 2024 International Scientific Committee members representing the general diversity of the field. The awards committee shall select the nominees invited for the final award, and provide a ranking of the final applications.