

ENCATC Research Award 2025

APPLY NOW!

Deadline: **19 May 2025**

The Research Award is an initiative of:



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The European Network on Cultural Management and Policy, ENCATC, launches the call for applications for the **12th edition of the ENCATC Research Award on Cultural Policy and Cultural Management**.

Since its launch in 2014, the ENCATC Research Award has recognized exceptional doctoral/PhD research that advances cultural policy, management, and education. As the leading European network in these fields, ENCATC ensures that the award reflects the interconnected nature and evolving challenges of these domains within a rapidly changing global context.

This award recognizes research that demonstrates academic rigor and originality while proving methodological innovation, interdisciplinary approaches, and meaningful impact. The award highlights research that pushes beyond traditional boundaries to address complex issues in transformative ways:

- Advances methodologies in cultural research by promoting alternative and mixed methods.
- Emphasizes interdisciplinarity by fostering connections between cultural policy, management, and other fields
- Prioritizes research with real-world impact by linking research to practice and policy.
- Addresses gaps in existing literature, challenges established theories and expands disciplinary boundaries.
- Explores innovation across technological, conceptual, methodological, or process-based dimensions.

Each year, the award is presented to a recently defended doctoral/PhD thesis at the ENCATC Research Award Ceremony, held annually during the ENCATC Congress on Cultural Management and Policy. The award exemplifies scholarly excellence by addressing contemporary issues, showcasing a robust research design, and demonstrating the potential to influence policy and benefit practitioners. The selected thesis is published in the ENCATC Advances in Cultural Management and Policy book series, edited by Routledge, ensuring global visibility and academic recognition.

Recognizing the increasing importance of transnational and cross-sectoral perspectives, the award welcomes research beyond national policy frameworks, incorporates diverse contextual settings, and contributes to broader international conversations on cultural management and policy. By fostering engagement with policymakers, practitioners, and researchers beyond academia, ENCATC aims to ensure that award-winning research actively contributes to the cultural sector and informs decision-making across multiple levels.

2025 Schedule

The **2025 call for ENCATC Research Award applications** is as follows:

- **8 April 2025:** Launch of the 2025 Call for Applications
- **19 May 2025:** Closing date for applications at midnight CEST Time
- **23 May 2025 – 23 June 2025:** Assessment of the applications
- **24 June 2025:** Announcement of the 3 shortlisted candidates
- **16 September 2025:** ENCATC Research Award Ceremony

ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

The ENCATC Research Award targets **early-career researchers** in **cultural policy and cultural management** from Europe and beyond. In response to recent feedback, the eligibility criteria have been refined to enhance inclusivity and accessibility.

To be eligible for the ENCATC Research Award:

- Candidates of any nationality may apply and can reside in any country worldwide.
- Applicants must be early-career researchers who have defended their doctoral/PhD thesis (up to 2 years after defense) and must have received a high qualification (cum laude or equivalent) in their country's higher education system.
- The doctoral/PhD thesis must focus on topics related to cultural management and/or policy.
- Doctoral/PhD theses may be submitted in any language. However, the applicant must submit an extensive summary in English. Translation support or guidelines for non-English submissions will be clarified in future communications.
- Submitted work must be original (except for material in the public domain or included with written permission of the copyright holders). The work cannot have been previously published in whole or part except when available on a university website or in a national library.
- The submitted work must not violate or infringe any existing copyright, license, or other rights of any person or party.
- Each candidate may apply only once.

These criteria reflect ENCATC's commitment to fostering diversity and ensuring that research is recognized internationally.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DOCUMENTATION

To apply, candidates must complete [the online application form](#) and upload the following supporting documents:

- **Curriculum vitae (CV):** A detailed account of the candidate's academic qualifications, professional experience, and achievements.
- **A Cover Letter:** A statement outlining the candidate's motivation for applying and the relevance of their research to cultural management or policy.
- **Doctoral/PhD Thesis Summary:** A 3,000-word summary in English, that includes:
 - The aim of the study and research questions
 - The theoretical framework that underpins the research

- Methodological approaches, including data collection, analysis, and ethical considerations
- The main results of the study
- The theoretical and practical contributions to the field of cultural management and/or policy
- The key references supporting the research
- **Recommendation Letters:** Two letters of recommendation from members of the university's jury/assessment board involved in the public defense process.

These documents are crucial for assessing the quality, originality, and impact of the candidate's research in cultural management and policy.

Applications that fail to meet the eligibility criteria or do not adhere to the application procedure will be automatically rejected. If documentation contains correctable errors, ENCATC will notify the applicant and provide a non-extendable five-calendar-day deadline for corrections.

Evaluation Guidelines and Procedures. An international jury will evaluate the applications and select the finalists. Given the increasing number of high-quality submissions, the selection process has been refined to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with the award's objectives.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The jury will assess submissions using the following criteria:

- **Quality of Research and Methodology (40%):** Excellence in research design, including clearly defined research questions, a critical review of relevant literature, methodological accuracy, and justified data analysis.
- **International Dimension (15%):** Comparative analysis and global relevance of the research findings.
- **Relevance and impact (15%):** The potential of the research to inspire practitioners, policymakers, and the broader field, including real-world applications.
- **Originality of the Research Topic (15%):** Contribution to new knowledge in cultural management and/or policy.
- **Suitability for ENCATC Book Series and Relevance to Thematic areas (5%).** Aligns with the thematic focus and potential inclusion in the ENCATC Book Series.
- **Innovative Research Design (5%):** Methodological advancements, interdisciplinary approaches, and novel contributions to the field.
- **The Quality of Writing (5%).** Clarity, coherence, and academic rigor in presenting the research.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for the ENCATC Research Award encompasses three key phases intended to guarantee fairness, transparency, and alignment with the award's objectives:

1. **Pre-Assessment Phase:** At least two jury members will review and score each eligible application privately based on the established criteria.
2. **Selection Phase:** All jury members, excluding those with conflicts of interest, evaluate shortlisted candidates during an online meeting. In this phase, qualitative factors such as the timeliness of the research, its alignment with ENCATC priorities, and potential impact are thoroughly discussed to finalize the selection of finalists.

3. **Final Evaluators' Meeting:** After the selection process concludes, a post-selection debrief is conducted. This meeting allows jury members to reflect on the submissions, identify emerging trends in research, and suggest improvements for future award cycles.

ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURE

The winner will be selected and announced at the occasion of the **ENCATC Research Award Ceremony** on the 16th of September 2025 in Barcelona, Spain, as part of the ENCATC Congress 2025, held from 15-17 September. The winner will also be publicly disclosed through the **ENCATC website** and **social media channels**. Upon acceptance, the winner must also commit to personally attending the Award ceremony.

Depending on the design of the Award Ceremony programme, finalists may be invited to present their work to an international audience. The fact of participating in the ENCATC Research Award signifies the acceptance of its conditions and the Jury decisions, and renunciation of any claim in their respect on the part of the applicant.

If the winning candidate does not accept the Award, it will be offered to the candidate that comes in second place. When accepting the Award, the winner must commit to provide ENCATC with a proof edited manuscript in English – ENCATC will not cover proofreading costs – within the 5 months after the Ceremony.

The winner will be requested to sign an agreement with the publisher, Routledge, and with ENCATC. The model of the agreement to be signed with ENCATC will be available soon.

[Click here to access the online application form.](#)