



MERAC Prize Rules

The MERAC Prizes are awarded by the European Astronomical Society (EAS) every year. They are called “**The MERAC Prizes awarded by the European Astronomical Society**”.

1. The MERAC Prizes

1.1. There are 3 prizes for young astrophysicists, one each in:

1. Theoretical Astrophysics
2. Observational Astrophysics
3. New Technologies / Instrumental/Computational/Multi-Messenger

1.2. In odd years the 3 prizes are awarded to young astrophysicists for work done between 3 and 8 years after their PhD (“**Best Early Career Researcher Prizes**”).

1.3. In even years the 3 prizes are awarded for work done towards a doctoral thesis awarded in the previous 2 years (“**Best Doctoral Thesis Prizes**”).

1.4. Each of the MERAC Prizes has a value of 25'000.00 € and is awarded by the FONDATION MERAC.

1.5. The awardees are eligible for substantial further support to be arranged directly with the FONDATION MERAC.

2. Conditions

2.1. The Best Doctoral Thesis Prizes will honour work done as part of the best thesis performed at an institute in a European country. A European country is understood in the broadest sense as those where an astronomical society is affiliated to the EAS as well as the Scandinavian countries without a national astronomical society.

2.2. Young astrophysicists are eligible for the Best Early Career Researcher Prizes if they are affiliated to a European institute with the same meaning as above, or if the work to be recognized has been performed largely in one such institute. Submissions for the Best Early Career Researcher Prizes shall be submitted no later than 10 years after the PhD, with a possible extension due to leave of absence (Art 2.3).

2.3 Candidates for the Best Early Career Researcher Prizes who have taken a leave of absence (e.g., maternity, accident) can apply to the call subsequent to the last one for which one was eligible for. The application should include a statement of the reasons for the leave.

3. Application

3.1. Nominations for the MERAC Prizes shall be received at the EAS office by the deadline set by the EAS for an award in the following year.

3.2. Nominations must be submitted via the online interface on the EAS website.

3.3. Nominations can be made by any member of the EAS. Self-nominations are not permitted. Nominations must be endorsed by two additional persons, with at least one of them being a member of the Society.

3.4. Nominations must include the following material:

- ⇒ A statement establishing the merits of the work to be honoured. This should describe the thesis in the case of the Best Doctoral Thesis Prize and emphasise the work done by the candidate between 3 and 8 years after the PhD for the Best Early Career Researcher Prizes.
- ⇒ Details of the candidate, including a short biography.
- ⇒ A statement establishing where the work was performed.
- ⇒ A CV of the candidate.
- ⇒ A list of publications of the candidate, highlighting those publications that led to the nomination.
- ⇒ A link to the PhD thesis
- ⇒ A statement explaining for a leave of absence, if relevant.
- ⇒ A short citation that could be used in case of an award.

4. Selection

4.1. The EAS sets a nomination committee chaired by a member of the EAS Council.

4.2. The prize committee is made up of between 5 to 10 members. The EAS Council ensures that the committee is balanced in terms of geographical representation; it also ensures that members' expertise covers theoretical, observational, and technological aspects of astrophysics and cosmology.

4.3. One member of the committee is nominated by the FONDATION MERAC Board. The EAS council endorses this nomination.

4.4. The prize committee receives the nominations in full.

4.5 The prize committee determines the eligibility of the candidates based on the submitted material.

4.6. The prize committee meets in the two months following the deadline for submission.

4.7 The committee communicates the results of its deliberation to the FONDATION MERAC for approval.

4.8 The FONDATION MERAC representative sends the list of approved nominees to the EAS Council for endorsement in its January meeting.

4.9 The awardees are informed by the EAS President.

5. Prize communication

5.1. The EAS issues a press release announcing the MERAC Prizes in the February/March of the year of the award.

5.2 The FONDATION MERAC approves the MERAC press release pages before the EAS issuance.

5.3 The FONDATION MERAC contacts the Prize winners to provide details on the payment of the Prize, and eligibility for further significant funding by the FONDATION MERAC.

5.4. Awardees will give plenary lectures at the EAS annual meeting of the award year.

Versoix, June 23, 2022