

Interdisciplinary Aquatic Ecosystems Research Awards 2026

(3 x 500 €)

The Water Science Alliance e.V., in cooperation with the Center for Water and Environmental Research (ZWU) at the University of Duisburg-Essen, awards three prizes for outstanding bachelor's or master's theses in aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem research.

The Aquatic Ecosystems Research Award targets emerging scientists who have completed their bachelor's or master's thesis at a German university, showcasing an innovative contribution to the exploration and comprehension of aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem processes. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary studies that transcend the confines of their specific research domain, utilizing concepts or methods from hydrology, chemistry, geology, engineering, and social sciences. Submissions addressing pressing environmental issues are particularly encouraged. Both thesis supervisor nominations and self applications are welcome.

The nomination should provide a summary of the findings of the thesis and its significance for the research field, presented in a maximum of 2 pages. Additionally, a curriculum vitae and a copy of the thesis must be attached to the application. All documents are to be sent exclusively in electronic format to florian.leese@uni.due.de. (Subject: "Aquatic Ecosystems Research Award 2026"). **The deadline for submissions is April 30, 2026.**

The winners of the award will be selected by a jury led by Prof. Dr. Florian Leese from the University of Duisburg-Essen.

The presentation of the awards will take place during the 16th Water Research Horizon Conference (<https://watersciencealliance.org/wrch/wrhc-2026>).

