

Johan de Witt prize – competition rules

Article 1. Johan de Witt prize

1.1

The Johan de Witt prize (hereinafter referred to as “the prize”) has been established by the Royal Dutch Actuarial Association (Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap, AG) to promote research and/or practical applications within actuarial science, the actuarial profession, and related fields in the Netherlands.

1.2

The jury of the Johan de Witt prize (hereinafter referred to as “the jury”) annually awards the prize to the author of the best academic thesis completed during the preceding academic year.

1.3

Unless otherwise decided by the AG Board, the prize is awarded annually during the AG Najaarscongres.

1.4

To be eligible for the prize, participants must comply with the provisions of these participation regulations.

Article 2. Category

The AG awards the prize to the author of the academic thesis that, in the opinion of the jury, is the best thesis submitted within the field of Actuarial Science or a related or comparable quantitative degree programme.

Article 3. Prize

The prize consists of:

- A certificate
- A jury report
- A Johan de Witt statuette
- A gross cash prize of €5,000

Article 4. Participants

4.1

Anyone may apply for the prize, except for the persons referred to in Article 4.3.

4.2

Only candidates who have completed a thesis in one of the following programmes or institutions are eligible:

- Students of the Actuarieel Instituut
- Bachelor of Science or Master of Science students in Actuarial Science
- Bachelor of Science or Master of Science students in a scientific field or discipline related to actuarial science, subject to the jury's assessment

4.3

Members of the jury, members of the AG Board, employees of the AG and the Actuarial Institute, and their first-degree relatives are excluded from participation in the Johan de Witt prize.

Article 5. Submission criteria

5.1

Eligible theses must address one or more aspects of the actuarial profession in the Netherlands. Theses based on scientific research or practical applications within or related to the actuarial field, whether national or international in scope, are also eligible.

5.2

The thesis must consist of a theoretical approach and/or empirical research and must make a meaningful contribution to the development of the actuarial profession and its field of practice.

5.3

The thesis may not exceed 60 pages (excluding appendices) or must be reduced to this maximum length before submission.

5.4

The thesis must have been completed at a recognised European university.

5.5

The thesis may be no more than one year old on the submission deadline.

5.6

The thesis must be written in either Dutch or English and must have received a passing grade from the educational institution.

5.7

The thesis must include a summary of no more than two A4 pages, which must be understandable as a stand-alone document.

5.8

The thesis must be received by the AG before the closing date.

5.9

If, in the opinion of the jury, none of the submissions meets the required criteria, if the quality of the submissions is insufficient, or if there are too few submissions, the jury may decide not to award the prize in a given year.

Article 6. Submission procedure

6.1

Theses must be submitted before the closing date, together with a summary and a fully completed entry form, by email to the secretariat of the Johan de Witt prize at:

johandewittprijs@actuarieelgenootschap.nl

Please use the subject line: "submission Johan de Witt prize".

6.2

Participants are encouraged to include a recommendation letter from their thesis supervisor. By providing such a recommendation, the supervisor agrees that the jury may contact them if additional information is required.

6.3

Participants will receive confirmation of receipt after submission.

Article 7. Assessment criteria

When assessing submissions, the jury will take at least the following three criteria into account:

1. Scientific quality

Demonstrated through originality, contribution to the scientific development of knowledge on the subject, sound methodology, application of the latest or innovative techniques in data collection, data quality, data processing and artificial intelligence, familiarity with relevant literature, and responsible use of sources.

2. Relevance

The extent to which the thesis sheds new light on broader developments or practical applications within actuarial science and related disciplines, or on socially relevant issues.

3. Quality of presentation

Demonstrated through accurate and engaging language, effective use of graphical techniques, a clear and compelling treatment of the subject, and a balanced and well-structured composition.

Article 8. Jury

8.1

The prize is awarded by the Johan de Witt prize jury, which is appointed by the AG Board.

8.2

The jury's decision is final and binding. No correspondence or appeals regarding the decision or the composition of the jury will be entered into.

Article 9. Award ceremony

9.1

Unless otherwise decided by the AG, the prize will be awarded publicly during the AG Najaarscongres at a date and location determined by the AG.

9.2

The winner of the prize will deliver a presentation on the winning thesis during the AG Najaarscongres. By participating in the prize competition, winners commit themselves to giving this presentation.

Article 10. Disputes

Any disputes arising in connection with the prize shall be settled by the jury.

Article 11. Final provisions

11.1

Participants are deemed to have read and accepted these competition rules.

11.2

In cases not provided for in these rules, the jury shall decide.

11.3

Amendments to these competition rules may only be made by the AG Board.