

PRIZES

MASTER'S THESES

1st prize
25,000 €

2nd prize
15,000 €

3rd prize
10,000 €

Presentation of works
until 30 April 2026

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2026 REN PRIZE
REGULATIONS

2026 REN AWARD REGULATIONS

The REN Award honours the best master's and doctoral theses in the field of energy from Portuguese higher education institutions in the different branches of Engineering, also covering the fields of Economy, Mathematics, Physics, Information Systems, and Computer Science.

Created in 1995, the REN Award, the oldest of its kind in Portugal, has evolved to incorporate the developments and transformations experienced by the energy sector over the years. It began as an award to the best students of electricity systems and networks, later incorporating subjects such as natural gas and, more recently, including candidates from a broader array of areas, but always with a common purpose: to contribute to the development of the energy sector in Portugal and boost interaction between the higher education institutions and the technological development of companies.

ARTICLE 1 – INSTITUTION AND SCOPE

Two types of REN Awards can be bestowed:

- Award – Master's Theses
- Award – Doctoral Thesis

1.1. The REN Award - Master's Theses seeks to honour the best master's theses on the subjects indicated in Article 3 of these regulations, carried out in Portuguese higher education institutions by recent graduates or finalists of master's programmes from the different branches of Engineering and also from Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Information Systems, and Computer Science. This award is given annually.

1.2. The REN Award - Doctoral Thesis seeks to honour the best Doctoral Thesis developed in Portuguese universities by recent PhD graduates in topics from the field of Energy covered in Article 3 of these regulations, in the following scientific areas: Engineering, Economics, Physics, Information Systems, and Computer Science. This award is given every two years, with its fifth edition taking place in 2027.

ARTICLE 2 – PRIZES

2.1. There will be three prizes for Master's Theses, with the following monetary values:

- 1st Prize - €25,000 (twenty-five thousand euros)
- 2nd Prize - €15,000 (fifteen thousand euros)
- 3rd Prize - €10,000 (ten thousand euros)

2.2. The awarded Master's Theses will also be given certificates with the identification of the winner, the title and grade of the corresponding thesis, and its year.

2.3. Up to three honourable mentions may also be awarded to Master's Theses, each worth €2,500 (two thousand five hundred euros), which will result in the awarding of the certificates mentioned in 2.2.

ARTICLE 3 – SUBJECTS OF THE WORKS

3.1. For the Award, consideration will be given to application theses developed with a high level of autonomy focusing on topics in the field of energy systems, namely on Energy Transition. The REN Award will include the following categories:

- a) Planning, Operation, and Management of Electrical Energy and Gas Systems.
- b) Integration of Renewable Energy Sources.
- c) Development of Smart Electricity and Gas Networks.
- d) Electricity and Gas Regulation and Markets.
- e) New Electrical and Gas Systems Technologies.

3.2. Prior to each edition, REN reserves the right to change the list of categories contained in these Regulations, according to the technological development and the relevance that certain areas may reveal for the exercise of its activities.

3.3. For each edition of the Award, REN may establish which categories among those mentioned in item 3.1. it considers having priority for the purposes of application.

ARTICLE 4 – APPLICATIONS

4.1. Conditions of admissibility

- a) Master's theses defended and graded in the calendar years of 2024 and 2025 may apply for the Award;
- b) Theses that do not meet the conditions laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of these Regulations or that have competed in previous editions of the Award shall not be accepted;
- c) Employees of REN or of any of its affiliated companies, as well as their spouses, parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren shall not apply for the Award.

4.2. Formalisation

The application will be addressed to REN PRO, S.A., Av. dos EUA, n.º 55, 1749-061 Lisboa, in a sealed envelope. On the outside, it should contain the indication "REN Award" and, inside, the following elements:

- Sealed envelope containing one copy of the thesis and its abstract, typed in A4 format, as well as a USB Drive or CD with the document in a digital editable format, indicating on the outside only the title of the thesis. These copies shall not include any identifying details of the author(s), the education institution, or professor(s) involved.
- Sealed envelope containing:
 - Name(s) of the author(s) of the thesis.
 - Photocopy of the identity card(s) of the applicant(s).
 - Address(es), telephone number(s), fax number(es), and e-mail(s) of the applicant(s).
 - Thesis title, grade, and year in which it was defended and graded.
 - Copy of the university's public notice, confirming the date of the public act of thesis defence or copy of the master's certificate.
 - Name of the university attended by the applicant(s).
 - Name(s) of the professor(s) who served as adviser(s) on the work.

4.3. Deadline for submission of theses

The deadline for the submission of theses for this edition of the Award is 30 April 2026.

ARTICLE 5 – FORMATION AND DECISIONS OF THE JURY

5.1. The submitted theses that meet the conditions of application mentioned in these regulations will be evaluated by a panel composed of renowned jurors invited by REN and chaired by one of its members, appointed by REN. The Jury will have the support of a Technical Committee, composed of staff from REN.

5.2. The Technical Committee will operate by delegation of the Jury, which will set the number of theses to be selected to be subsequently evaluated by the Jury. In this pre-selection, the relevance of the topics to the activity performed by REN Group's companies will be taken into account.

5.3. The deliberations of the Jury shall be made by a simple majority of the votes of its members, provided that a simple majority of all members participates in this process.

5.4. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson of the Jury shall have the casting vote.

5.5. The Jury is sovereign as to the decisions made, from which no appeal shall lie.

ARTICLE 6 – EVALUATION OF THE WORKS

6.1. The analysis and evaluation of the Master's theses shall be the responsibility of the Jury and of the Technical Committee, in accordance with criteria set in advance, which shall include the following aspects:

- a) Level of scientific and technical knowledge shown in the work.
- b) Ability to use the scientific method.
- c) Innovative character of the approach and results.
- d) Creativity regarding the proposed objectives and the developed methods.
- e) Method, structure, and organisation of the presentation.

6.2. The three best theses that will be awarded the first, second, and third prizes will be determined in the evaluation process. The Jury may, at its discretion, award other theses with honourable mentions.

6.3. The analysis and evaluation of the Doctoral's theses shall be the sole responsibility of the Jury, in accordance with criteria that take into account the aspects previously mentioned in 6.1.

6.4. If the Jury considers that there are no competing theses that meet the criteria laid down in item 6.1 of these Regulations, the prizes, in whole or in part, shall not be awarded.

ARTICLE 7 – ANNOUNCEMENT AND PRESENTATION OF THE PRIZES

7.1. The classification of the theses will be communicated to the competitors, by registered letter, at the latest five months after the deadline for their submission, and may also be disclosed through other means.

7.2. The prizes and certificates will be awarded to the winners or their duly accredited representatives, in a ceremony to be held at a date, time, and place to be designated by REN.

ARTICLE 8 – RIGHTS OVER THE WORKS

8.1. REN reserves the right to publish and disclose the awarded theses.

8.2. The copies of the presented theses will not be returned and will remain in REN's possession.