

## Europlanet Iberian Awards for best PhD&Master's Thesis on Planetary Sciences & Exploration, presented in 2025

The [Europlanet Society](#), through its [Spain & Portugal Regional Hub](#), announces the following **Europlanet Early Career Prizes**:

- **Best Iberian PhD Thesis in Planetary Sciences & Exploration**
  - *Named after [Abraham Zacut](#) (1452-1515), Castilian astronomer from Salamanca and later Portugal's Royal Astronomer. Known for his astronomical tables, instrumentation and maritime charts, which played a key role in the navigation era.*
- **Best Iberian Master's Thesis in Planetary Sciences & Exploration**
  - *Named after [Pedro Nunes](#) (1502-1578), Portuguese astronomer, studied both in Salamanca and Lisbon. Known for his mathematical and instrumental contributions to planetary geometry and cartography, also key for the maritime navigation era.*

These prizes will be awarded in open competition according to following bases below:

- PhD/Master's Thesis must have been presented during the **calendar year of 2025**.
- PhD/Master's Thesis must have been presented in a **Spanish/Portuguese** institution, or, exceptionally, by Spanish/Portuguese nationals in other international institutions.
- **Topic of the thesis** must be directly related to planetary science research and/or solar system exploration technology development. This may cover, among others:
  - Research on any planetary object or medium: interplanetary dust, asteroids, comets, moons, rings, terrestrial and giant planets, exoplanets, ...
  - Research on any planetary field of study: geology, atmospheres and magnetospheres, interplanetary medium, planet-sun interaction, planetary formation, exoplanets, astrobiology, ...
  - Technological advances for solar system exploration: data analysis, processing and modeling software methods, instrument calibration and development, mission studies and operations, etc.

\* Any thesis not focusing on planetary science and exploration may be excluded.

In particular:

- Too wide generic areas such as general geology, geochemistry, exo-biology, astronomy, astrophysics, orbital dynamics, aerospace engineering, etc.
- Research studies focused mainly on the Earth, the Sun (or the central star in the case of exoplanets).

- Applications will be submitted in electronic format (PDF), including the following:
  - **Application form** (PDF, 3 page maximum, see below)
  - **Short Curriculum Vitae** (PDF, 3 page maximum)
  - **PhD/Master's thesis** (PDF or download link)
- **Application form** must include the following information (maximum 3 pages, free format):
  - **Thesis Summary** (~1 page): including title, keywords, scientific/technological context and goals, milestones, collaborations, work description and specific contribution from the candidate (to clarify which parts of the research work has been carried out by the candidate or by others). Include also Thesis Qualification and Mentions (if any): e.g. "Cum Laude" or any other honorable mention, European or International Mention, etc.
  - **Summary of main scientific and/or technological achievements and contributions to the planetary community** (~1 page): Describe the present and future impact of your research in your area of expertise. Summarize the final results, papers, citations, observations, methodology, software/hardware, instrumentation, reports, collaborations, conference contributions, outreach and/or education activities, etc.
  - **References** (~1 page): list of main peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, proceedings and contributions to national and international conferences, outreach or educational works, etc. Include web or DOI links wherever possible.
  - **Language:** Applications can be written either in Spanish, Portuguese or English.
- Applications must be submitted by **31 March 2026** via the online web form ([ES](#) / [PT](#)).
- The **Evaluation Board** will be formed by the members of the Europlanet Society Spain & Portugal Regional Hub coordination committee, with additional experts from the planetary community if needed, excluding any possible conflicts of interest.
  - The decision taken by the Evaluation Board will be final.
  - Exceptionally, the Evaluation Board may decide to award more than one winner for each prize or declare the competition void or canceled.
- Applications must fulfill all requirements to be considered for evaluation. Any non-veracity in the application would imply disqualification.
- Participation in the award implies implicit authorization for publication of the name of the participant and the summary of the thesis presented.