

Coordination Office

Geoverbund ABC/J

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ABC/J Research Awards 2025 for Early Career Scientists

The Geoverbund ABC/J is the geoscientific network in the Aachen-Bonn-Cologne/Jülich research region. It brings together [the geoscientific institutes](#) of RWTH Aachen University, the University of Bonn, the University of Cologne and the Forschungszentrum Jülich. The cooperation pools and networks the expertise in geoscientific research and teaching that has been acquired at these institutions over several decades.

Research focuses on the dynamic Earth-human system. Together, the scientists of the ABC/J region identify urgent and future issues in the fields of the evolution of Earth and life, the dynamics and processes of the Earth system in global change, the sustainable use and conservation of geo-resources and geo-hazards, vulnerability and resilience, and develop possible solutions that extend beyond the region.

Geoverbund ABC/J is committed to the continuous development of the ABC/J region by creating attractive conditions for excellent research and student education. In 2025, for the 15th time, Geoverbund ABC/J will award the Geoverbund ABC/J Research Award for outstanding, innovative and interdisciplinary research in the field of geosciences, including geography. The first prize is €2,000, with further awards for second (€1,500) and third (€1,000) place.

What can be submitted as an entry?

The subject of the competition is research activity with a geoscientific or geographical focus. Such activity may be demonstrated either by a doctoral thesis or by one or more publications that have appeared in SCI or SCIE refereed journals. Submissions made to previous competitions are not eligible for re-submission.

Who can apply?

The competition is open to all scientists whose work is based on or has been developed [at an institute affiliated to Geoverbund ABC/J](#). It is essential that such affiliation can be proven. Generally, the date of the doctorate should not be more than four years ago; special personal circumstances

such as proven periods of parental leave may be considered. The relevant date is 28 February 2025. Proof of the final submission of the doctoral thesis is sufficient for an application.

About the award process

Submissions will be evaluated by independent reviewers based on research excellence, degree of innovation and interdisciplinarity. The prize will be awarded by the Directorate of Geoverbund ABC/J based on the reviewers' recommendations and considering scientific aspects. The award ceremony will take place during the summer festival of Geoverbund ABC/J where the prize winners will present their work in person. The personal acceptance of the prize and the presentation in the form of a short talk are obligatory.

Important information for competition entries that can be classified as basic research

The Geoverbund ABC/J Research Award is open to all innovative and interdisciplinary research in geosciences, including geography. The submission of pure basic research projects - whose direct societal relevance is not obvious and/or is difficult or impossible to describe - is also explicitly encouraged and will be rewarded according to the quality of the research. Such entries will not be discriminated against in favour of entries that address socially relevant issues. Any information on the social relevance of a project in the entry form should therefore be considered optional.

How can you apply?

Send us your application, describing the aims of the research, giving examples of results and explaining its outstanding significance in the relevant field of research, and attach the following documents:

1. Application form, digitally signed.
2. Competition entry:
 - a. Dissertation (usually not older than 4 years)
 - b. or one or more publications (accepted for publication within a period of usually max. 4 years after the doctorate; the relevant date in both cases is 28 February 2024), which have been published or accepted for publication in SCI- or SCIE-listed peer-reviewed journals. In the case of several publications, the content-related connection must be discussed in a cover document.
3. Letter of recommendation
4. Doctoral degree certificate or proof of final submission of doctoral thesis

Please submit all documents in form of a single PDF document via email to:

t.finsterbusch@fz-juelich.de. The closing date for applications is 28 February 2025.

Application Form

ABC/J Research Awards 2025 for Early Career Scientists

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Data		
Salutation		
Academic degree		
Given Name		
Surname		
Date of Birth		
Professional title		
Current position		
Contact details	Personal	Business
Street, Number		
Postcode, city		
Country		
Phone		
e-mail		
Identifiers / ORCID (if available)		
Area of scientific specialization (3-4 keywords)		

Qualification and Career	
Please list stages of academic/professional career (before and after doctorate starting from university level)	
Submission of doctoral thesis	
Date of doctoral defence	
Date of doctoral certificate	

Experiences and activities (please list if applicable)	
Fellowships/Third party funding	
Career-related prizes and awards	
Oral presentations	
Poster presentations	
Further activities in the research system	
Supplementary Career Information (you may voluntarily enter supplementary information relating to your career or special personal circumstances if you feel that this information may be relevant to the evaluation of your academic achievements).	

Competition Entry

Details of the institution to which the competition entry is affiliated to	
Organisation	
Institute	
Street, number	
Postcode, City	

Author of recommendation letter	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Institute	
Street, number	
Postcode, city	
Phone	
e-mail	

Details of the competition entry	
Type	Dissertation Publication Publications incl. accompanying document
Title (in case of several publications: title of cover document)	
Brief description of the research work in a generally understandable form (max. 2,000 characters, incl. spaces)	
In case that the candidate is not first author of the competition entry (or at least one publication), please specify the personal contribution(s) subsequently!	

Research achievements

(Please answer the following questions as briefly and precisely as possible!)

1. How does the competition entry add to our knowledge in comparison to the current state of research?

2. Which elements of the competition entry are especially innovative?

3. Which interdisciplinary approaches does the contribution contain?

4. How does your research contribute to topics currently being discussed in society?

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Suggestions for reviewers

Please name and provide contact details for six potential reviewers with scientific expertise within the field(s) addressed by the competition entry. The reviewers must be independent, i.e. you may not have joint publications with the reviewers. Furthermore, they must not be direct colleagues within the same research group.

Reviewer No. 1	
Salutation	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Reviewer No. 2	
Salutation	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Reviewer No. 3	
Salutation	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Reviewer No. 4	
Salutation	
Academic degree	

Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Reviewer No. 5	
Salutation	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	
Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Reviewer No. 6	
Salutation	
Academic degree	
Given Name	
Surname	
Organisation	

Street, Number	
Postcode, city	
Country	
e-mail	

Declaration of the candidate	
	I hereby apply for the Geoverbund ABC/J Award for Early Career Scientists 2025 and certify that the information provided in this form is correct. I am aware that any incorrect information will lead to disqualification.
	I agree that data provided within this form (especially personal details, information related to the competition entry) may be saved and processed within the scope of the competition by Geoverbund ABC/J. Saving and processing of data especially includes forwarding of data to members of the Geoverbund ABC/J steering committee, reviewers, and the selection panel.
	I agree to present the competition entry during the Geoverbund ABC/J summer festival in person and accept that this is a mandatory prerequisite for being awarded.
	In the event of being awarded, I hereby agree that Geoverbund ABC/J is entitled to edit, use and disseminate the information provided within this form for public relations. Dissemination especially includes provision of information via homepage and social media channels of Geoverbund ABC/J.
	In the event of being awarded, I provide a photograph of myself for publication on the website and social media channels of Geoverbund ABC/J. In addition, I agree that photographs taken of me during the award ceremony may be used for public relations purposes.

Place, date

Signature