

ESEE2026 Best Student Paper Competition

We are happy to announce that the European Society for Ecological Economics (ESEE) will award three prizes for the best student papers at the 16th Biennial Conference of the ESEE in Ghent (June 30th – July 3rd 2026). To participate in the competition, students must apply by filling out a form after their paper has been accepted for presentation at the conference. If their contribution is shortlisted the author(s) must submit a full paper by 15 May 2026. The Student Prize will be awarded during the ESEE2026 conference. This document outlines the full procedure for the competition.

Application criteria

To be eligible, papers must:

- be a **complete, original, unpublished manuscript in English**; if published (or accepted by a scientific journal) papers are not eligible to take part in the competition;
- be **led by a student and written by a student as the first or only author**;
- a **'student'** is defined as someone who was enrolled as a (PhD) student within the year leading up to the conference - that is, whose (PhD) student status ended after June 30, 2025;
- where there are multiple authors, include a **clear description of the contribution that the student(s) made to work**;
- represent **an original work in ecological economics**;
- follow **standard ethical requirements** in research;
- be presented as **an oral presentation by the candidate during the conference**;
- must **contain a maximum of 6000 words** (refs incl.; tables and figures excl.) and be accompanied by an abstract of max. 150 words;

Evaluation criteria

The shortlisting process for the abstracts is based on the grades received during the process of acceptance to the conference. The shortlisted contributions will be assigned by the jury to 3 reviewers who will assess the full paper using the following criteria:

1. relevance to ecological economics;
2. academic quality;
3. rigor / clarity / flair of writing.

Application submissions

If you wish to apply to the Best Student Paper competition, please follow [this link](#). The **deadline for applying is 15 April 2026** (no extensions will be given).

- 1) A first assessment round will shortlist a number of papers based on the grades received by the abstracts during the conference evaluation process.
- 2) Authors of shortlisted papers will be required to submit a full paper (maximum 6,000 words) following the template provided [here](#). The name of the submitted document must begin with the ID number assigned during the conference submission process. A double-blind review process will be followed; therefore, the authors' names must not appear in the paper or in the document properties. The deadline for full paper submission is 15 May 2026, using a procedure that will be communicated to shortlisted authors. Authors must also upload proof of conference registration at that stage; failure to do so will result in exclusion from the BSPC.
- 3) Six finalists will present the paper at the conference in a special session devoted to the BSPC. After the presentation the jury will select the three winners and the student prize will be awarded during the Conference, possibly during the Closing Ceremony.

If you have any doubts or questions, please contact Claudio Cattaneo or Tommaso Luzzati, (virtualclodeATgmail.com OR tommaso.luzzatiATunipi.it)