

RULES OF THE ANNUAL PROGRESS AWARD

Objectives

The aim of this award is to encourage the development of high-quality, creative and innovative master's theses and to foster closer ties between universities and companies.

Eligibility

Students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Machine Learning and Cybersecurity for Internet Connected Systems who successfully defended their master's thesis during the 2025–2026 academic year are eligible to apply. Although they formally fall outside that academic year, students who defended their thesis during the October 2026 examination period are also eligible.

The master's thesis must not be confidential.

Participants' personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. However, the names of the winners, as well as those of other participants, may be made public.

Award

A first prize of €500 will be awarded to the author or authors of the master's thesis. If a thesis has multiple authors, or in the event of a tie, the prize money will be shared among them.

The jury may decide not to award the prize.

The organizers may publicize the titles of the awarded works and/or works receiving any other recognition from the jury, together with summaries of their contents.

Intellectual property

The intellectual property rights of submitted works shall be governed by the [regulations of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya](#).

Application procedure and documentation

To apply for the award, participants must email the following documents in PDF format to xavier.moncunill@upc.edu

- Full master's thesis report
- The master's thesis summary, which normally accompanies the final degree project under EPSEM regulations
- A sheet stating the title of the work, the name(s) of the author(s) and supervisor(s), and contact details for at least one author

Deadlines

Applications will be accepted from the date of publication of this call until 24:00 on 26 October 2026. By that time, participants must have received confirmation that their documentation has been received.

Jury

The jury will consist of four members. Three will be representatives of Progress Software Corporation, serving respectively as chair, secretary and jury member. One representative of EPSEM will complete the jury and serve as a jury member. In the event of a tie in the deliberations, the chair will have the casting vote. The secretary will be responsible for recording the minutes of the deliberations.

Evaluation criteria and selection of the winner

The submitted works will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The technological and/or scientific level of the master's thesis
- The degree of creativity and innovation of the master's thesis
- The potential for practical application of the results
- The structure and presentation of the master's thesis report

In the first stage, the jury will select up to three finalist works based on the documentation submitted. Finalists may be invited to give a brief online oral presentation of their work, followed by a discussion with the jury. In that case, the quality of the presentation and subsequent discussion will also be taken into account when selecting the winner.

Decision and award presentation

The jury's decision will be announced at the award ceremony and will be final. The prize will be presented during the EPSEM graduation ceremony.

Protection of personal data

In accordance with the applicable personal data protection legislation, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27 April 2016 (GDPR), Organic Law 15/1999 of 13 December (LOPD), and Royal Decree 1720/2007 implementing the LOPD, we inform you that the personal data provided will be processed by Progress Software Corporation and used to manage your participation in the award and, if you are a winner, to arrange delivery of the corresponding prize. Your data will be retained for the duration of the award. If you are a winner, you authorize us to disclose your data to our associated companies for the purpose of delivering the prize. You have the right to withdraw this consent at any time and to exercise your rights of access, rectification, portability, erasure, restriction of processing and objection by contacting PSC Data Protection Office, 15 Wayside Rd, Suite 400, Burlington, MA 01803, USA, or by emailing privacy@progress.com. If you believe that the processing does not comply with the applicable regulations, you may lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority at www.agpd.es. privacy@progress.com

Acceptance of these terms

Participation in the "PROGRESS AWARD" implies acceptance of all the terms of this call. Award winners are also deemed to consent to appearing in photographs used to publicize the event, including in magazines, on social media and in the local press.