



REGULATIONS FOR THE BEN FERINGA IMPACT AWARDS

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Article 1. Awarding

1. Every year, the University of Groningen presents the Ben Feringa Impact to UG researchers and students who have made outstanding achievements in the field of knowledge utilization. Knowledge utilization is defined as “the application of knowledge through productive interactions with an interested target group to create social – including economic – value.”¹
2. The prize will be awarded in two categories: one for researchers and one for students. There are a maximum of three nominees per category, of which one prize winner or prize-winning team of up to four people is selected. Hereinafter, we will refer to the prospective winners as “the student” and “the researcher”, which may also refer to a team nomination.
3. The winning student will receive a prize of € 2,500 to be spent as they please. The winning researcher will receive a prize of € 5,000 to be spent on further knowledge utilization.
4. The Ben Feringa Impact Awards are presented during a special ceremony in which ample attention is paid to the nominated projects, the importance of knowledge utilization for the university, previous winners, and other great examples of societal impact.

Article 2. Nominations

1. Every year before 1 October, the Board of the University invites the faculty boards to nominate knowledge utilization projects for the award in line with article 1, before 15 December of the same year.
2. A knowledge utilization project is a project involving the realization of impact from start to impact and the intermediate phases; also called an *impact pathway*. An impact pathway describes the approach and efforts of the student or researcher to promote impactful research.
 - a. For researchers, the achieved impact must be based on concrete evidence and qualitative/quantitative indicators of achieved results and impact. The impact must be generated during the two years prior to the closing date for nominations.
 - b. For students, the achieved impact must be the result of a thesis, internship, research project or other relevant initiative that they completed for their degree programme within the academic year prior to the closing date of 15 December.
3. Eligible for nomination are
 - a. Researchers and students who have not previously won a Ben Feringa Impact Award;
 - b. Researchers employed by the UG (with a p number and at least an on-call contract) who have not yet reached retirement age at the time of the closing date for nominations;
 - c. Students who were enrolled in one of the degree programmes of the UG in the academic year prior to the closing date of 15 December.

¹ Definition of “knowledge utilization” according to NWO – Stevinpremie ([online link](#), page 2).



4. A nomination comprises:
 - The designated nomination form (for students or researchers);
 - A concise curriculum vitae (no more than 1 page) for each nominee;
 - A summary of the project;
 - Additional documentation that shows the achieved impact (e.g. scientific publications, reference letters from stakeholders, or appendices that illustrate the achieved impact);
 - For students: a thesis report or report of the research project/internship on the basis of which impact was generated.
 - For researchers: a short paragraph explaining how the prize money of € 5000,- will be used for further knowledge utilization.
5. The nomination form and the curriculum vitae must be drawn up in English. Theremaining documents can be drawn up either in English or in Dutch.
6. The candidates will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a. Impact (50%): demonstrable use of knowledge in practice with significant societal and/or economic impact. The project contributes to societal challenges on a regional, national or global scale;
 - b. Innovation (20%): the researcher or student has, on their own initiative, taken imaginative and effective steps to make a connection between science and society in a way that goes beyond standard science communication;
 - c. Collaboration (15%): the project is the result of co-creation in which various partners, such as scientific and non-scientific staff at all stages of their careers, industry, government, NGOs and/or citizens, are actively involved during all phases of the project;
 - d. Quality (15%): the results of the project are of a high standard and show the qualitative/quantitative value of the impact realized.
7. An expert jury will select three researchers and three students as candidates out of all of the nominees. One of the researcher candidates and one of the student candidates will be awarded the Ben Feringa Impact Award.

Article 3. Jury

1. Every year, the Board of the University puts together a jury of at least five and no more than seven members. Two members of the jury are working outside the university community and represent the diversity of external stakeholders. The jury should include expertise in the full range of knowledge utilization.
2. The jury will judge the submitted nominations based on the criteria laid down in article 2.6.
3. The decision about the proposal for the winners and nominees of the Ben Feringa Impact Award is made by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the chair's vote is decisive.
4. The jury will present a motivated proposal for the winners and nominees of the Ben Feringa Impact Awards to the Board of the University by 1 March of the year following the closing date at the latest.
5. The decision of the jury is not open to discussion. Nominees can request substantiated feedback from the jury after the award ceremony of the Ben Feringa Impact Awards.

Article 4. Decision

1. Before 1 April of the year following the closing date, the Board of the University decides whether it will adopt the jury's proposal for the candidates and the winners.
2. The Board of the University will immediately notify the faculties of their decision and will inform them about the follow-up.