



Regulations NINO Thesis Prizes 2026

version June 2026

1. Conditions for participation

1.1

Eligible for assessment by the jury are final theses on the basis of which a Bachelor's or a Master's degree was obtained at a Dutch university in the academic year 2025/2026.

1.2

The subject of the thesis falls within the research areas of NINO: archaeology, history, languages, and cultures of Egypt, Levant, Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and Persia. Adjacent areas are considered; the chairman of the jury decides whether a thesis is relevant enough to compete.

1.3

Participants are expected to be aware of these regulations when submitting their materials to compete for a NINO Thesis Prize.

1.4

The thesis was written as a graduation thesis and was graded with an 8 or higher.

1.5

The thesis must be entirely and unconditionally available to the members of the jury.

The thesis must be available to the public, without restrictions for interested parties who wish to access it, unless there are concerns with regard to copyright, privacy or confidentiality. Reasons to abstain from this rule must be motivated to the

jury who will decide whether and how the thesis can be admitted to the competition.

1.6

Staff members of NINO, individuals involved in the organization of the NINO Thesis Prizes, and family members of jury members are excluded from the competition.

1.7

The jury has the right to exclude a thesis from the competition in case of plagiarism, fraud, etc.

2. Submission of the thesis

2.1

The thesis must be submitted digitally, as a **pdf file (max. 64 MB)**. The submitted version must be identical with the final version of the thesis as assessed by the supervisors. Non-digital submissions will not be taken into consideration.

The thesis must be submitted through the upload form on the NINO website (www.nino-leiden.nl/funding/nino-thesis-prizes). If the online form is unavailable, the candidate should send an e-mail to the address mentioned on the upload page. The jury's secretary will assess whether a different way of submission is possible. The deadline for submission is **1 October 2026 at 23:59 hrs**; the submission form will then go offline. Late submissions will not be accepted.



2.2

The thesis needs to be accompanied by the following information:

- name, address, phone number(s), e-mail address of the author;
- name of the degree program, grade (Master or Bachelor), title of the thesis, EC amount, and date of graduation;
- names, titles and e-mail addresses of the thesis supervisors and second readers.

This information is to be sent in through the upload form on the NINO website.

2.3

The following additional documents need to be submitted:

- proof of the grade awarded to the thesis, signed by a qualified authority; for example a validated extract from the education administration, or a copy of the grade list provided with the diploma (pdf);
- a copy/scan of the diploma, mentioning the date of graduation (pdf);
- a public summary of 300-500 words, in the same language as the thesis (a short description of: the main research question, the research method, the **results of the research**, and its **significance for the field of study**; phrased in a way that is intelligible and appealing to a lay public) (Word document). If the thesis is (intended to be) placed in an online repository, the url to (the record in) the repository is mentioned in the summary.

The submitted documents are checked for accuracy by the jury's secretary. If one or more documents are missing or incorrect, the applicant will be contacted by the secretary at the email address provided through the upload form. If the documents are not amended/supplemented or if applicant does not respond, the submission will be excluded from participation.

2.4

Upon submission of the thesis, participants will receive a confirmation of receipt. If no notification is received, the applicant should contact NINO by email through the email address provided on the webpage. Without a confirmation from NINO the submission may not have been successful, and the applicant cannot participate.

3. Assessment criteria

3.1

Submissions are assessed on relevance, scientific value and originality.

3.2

The author is free to enter his/her thesis into other competitions. If the thesis wins a prize before the NINO Thesis Prizes are awarded (at the NINO Annual Meeting, **29 January 2027**), it is no longer eligible for a NINO Thesis Prize. The author must inform the jury of participation in other competitions, and must immediately notify the jury if the thesis is awarded a prize.

3.3

The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. Evaluation

4.1

The jury consists of experts in the active research areas of NINO. The jury is appointed by the director of NINO, who acts as chairman of the jury. The secretary of NINO, or a substitute appointed by the director, acts as secretary to the jury.

4.2

If there are more than 15 submissions, the jury has the right to make a pre-selection, based on the summaries provided and the official grades. The distribution of the theses among the members



of the jury is done by the secretary of the jury, keeping in mind the different specializations.

4.3

The jury has the right to abstain from awarding the prizes if there are not enough submissions, or if the submissions are of insufficient quality.

4.4

The jury may seek external advice when assessing the theses.

4.5

If a member of the jury has acted as supervisor of a submitted thesis, he or she is excluded from the evaluation of this thesis.

4.6

Each thesis is assessed by two different judges, ranking it (1-5); the average/total rank determines the top two Bachelor and (Research) Master theses. These are re-assessed by the full panel of judges, yielding one winner and one runner-up in each category.

5. Prizes

5.1

The prizes amount to €400 for the best Bachelor thesis and €600 for the best (Research) Master thesis. The winners and runners-up will receive a certificate.

5.2

The winners and the runners-up will be announced at the NINO Annual Meeting on 29 January 2027 in Nijmegen. At this ceremony the winners will have the opportunity to present their thesis to the public. The runners-up will be mentioned during the ceremony.

5.3

Summaries of the winning theses and the runners-up will be posted on the NINO website. The results of the competition will be announced via NINO's social media channels.

6. Final provisions

6.1

Participants' email addresses will be added to the NINO mailing list. If they do not wish to receive news mailings from NINO, they may unsubscribe from the mailing list.

6.2

In case of ambiguity, the Dutch text version of these regulations ("Reglement NINO-Scriptieprijsen") supersedes the present English version.

In all cases where these regulations do not provide, the chairman of the jury will decide.

The Netherlands Institute for the Near East
Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten

Witte Singel 27a, Herta Mohr building
P.O.Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden (NL)

 www.nino-leiden.nl

 NINOfunding@hum.leidenuniv.nl

The NINO research centre is part of Leiden University (Faculty of Humanities, LIAS).