

# RULES & REGULATIONS

## FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award 2012 7<sup>th</sup> edition

### Foreword

In 2005, FIR Award was launched to foster academic research on subjects in Finance and Sustainability. By building bridges between the academic and finance communities and their stakeholders, FIR Award aimed to promote practically relevant academic research and encourages broader disciplinary development of responsible investment scholarship.

Starting in 2011, FIR partners with PRI to advance a joint programme to meet these goals. Aspects of this partnership are the development of an international resource database and coordination between the annual PRI Academic Conference and FIR Award Presentation.

### Article 1: Aim of the Award

"FIR PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award" grants:

Awards to research produced in each of the following categories:

- Master's Thesis (master's degree, graduate school of management, graduate school of engineering),
- PhD Thesis,
- Academic Published Articles.

Research grants for projects in the areas of:

- Financial instruments
- Social issues
- ISR products marketing

Research projects will be evaluated and selected at the European level.

### Article 2: Eligibility of Research Projects

Submissions will be accepted from citizens of European countries (including those studying abroad), as well as from non-European students enrolled at European Universities or "Grandes Ecoles" or if Europe is the research field.

To be eligible for the awards, research projects must cover at least one topic related to Finance and Sustainability (i.e. Socially Responsible Investment, Micro Finance, etc.).

The projects must have been completed as part of a University master's degree thesis, a graduate thesis for a "Grande Ecole" (credited by the appropriate Ministry), a PhD thesis, or have been published in an academic review with a proper reading committee.

To be eligible for the research grants, research projects must contribute at least partially to "social issues", "financial instruments" or "SRI products marketing" areas of the Finance and Sustainability topic. Projects must be backed and supervised by a University or "Grande Ecole" professor. These projects may be part of University master's degree thesis, a PhD thesis or to be published in an academic review with a proper reading committee.

Research projects should be written in French or English.

Candidates may apply individually or as part of a team.

To be eligible for the awards, projects will have to be submitted according to the conditions stated under Article 5.

### Article 3: Confidentiality

At the time of application, research projects will have to be completed and/or published or publishable. The jury will not be able to evaluate research works bound by permanent and strict confidentiality. The public nature of the research document is therefore essential for it to be allowed to compete for the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award".

Temporary confidentiality measures will be taken throughout the evaluation and selection process up until the award ceremony. During this period, the research projects will not be shared with anyone outside the selection committee and jury members. Those on the committee promise not to disclose any information until the award ceremony.

After publication of the results and the award ceremony, the confidentiality clause will be lifted.

The candidates who apply to the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award" must be willing to provide the **summaries** of their competing research projects on a free and non-exclusive basis (see Article 5 below). This is mainly to allow them to be included in a database set up by the French SIF, and to allow a possible publication of the above-mentioned summaries, free of charge, and in any format that the award organisation team deems appropriate.

### Article 4: Application Procedure

Candidates must complete an application online at [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)

Any questions can be sent at [contact@fir-pri-awards2012.org](mailto:contact@fir-pri-awards2012.org)

Research projects that have already been submitted for the 2011 award may not be submitted again.

Applications will enter into consideration upon reception of the complete application file.

Applications may be sent from January 16, 2012 and will enter into consideration upon reception of the complete application file no later than April 22, 2012.

### Article 5: Application File

1. For Best Master's Thesis Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
  - Application form on the website [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - Reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature,
  - Copy of Master's Thesis, electronic document,
  - **A summary of the Master's thesis (from 4,000 to 5,000 characters)** including explanations as to how it contributes to the topic of Finance and Sustainability

The award is open to students having completed and presented their Master's thesis between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and April 22, 2012.
  
2. For Best PhD Thesis Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
  - Application form on the website [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - Reference letter from a University professor, with an electronic signature,
  - Copy of PhD thesis, electronic document
  - **A summary of the PhD thesis (less than 15,000 characters)** including explanations as to how it contributes to the topic of Finance and Sustainability

The award is open to students having completed and presented their PhD thesis between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and April 22, 2012.
  
3. For Best Published Article Award:
  - Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID
  - Application form on the website [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)
  - Candidate's contact information,
  - Copy of published article, electronic document

The award is open to researchers having published their article between January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and April 22, 2012.

4. For research grants:

- Photocopy of ID, or a scanned ID,
- Application form on the website [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)
- Letter of the Research Director backing and supervising the research,
- Candidate's contact information.
- **A summary of the research project** (less than 5,000 characters) including explanations as to how it contributes to "social issues" or "financial instruments" or "SRI products marketing" in the area of Finance and Sustainability;

The grants are available for all research projects sent in by April 22, 2012 regardless of whether the research has just begun or whether it is ongoing.

Grants candidates are eligible for both European (FIR-PRI) and Global (PRI-Mistra) awards and must provide the following items:

- Summary of research topic
- The project's contribution to today's existing literature on this topic
- Expected methodology and data: interviews, data base, etc
- Work schedule
- Present financial support and goal of the FIR grant funds

**The quality and size of summaries are extremely important since they are essentially what the jury uses in order to select nominees.**

### **Article 6: Allowances**

The award winners will be rewarded by allowances provided by "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award" business partners.

Three prizes can be awarded for:

- Best Master's Thesis
- Best PhD Thesis
- Best Published Article

Each individual or team award winner will be rewarded by a €5,000 allowance. In addition to the financial reward, award-winning research could also be published.

Three research grants will be awarded for:

- best research project on social issues
- best research project on financial instruments
- best research project on SRI products marketing

Grants will be for €3,000 each.

Each allowance will be delivered to an individual. For team projects, the jury will decide upon the allowance allocation between team members.

The jury reserves the right not to distribute some or all of the allowance if they believe none of the submitted research projects deserve it.

### **Article 7: Selection Committee and Jury**

A selection committee composed of academics, corporate sponsor representatives, French SIF Board members and PRI will be in charge of the short-listing process.

The jury will be composed of theory specialists (university or graduate school teachers, etc.) and experts (business partners) in the field of Finance and Sustainability. A member of the selection committee and the jury may not apply (or co-apply) to any of the awards or grants. Special attention will be paid to the diversity of the jury to make sure it includes a wide range of knowledge and expertise.

The selection committee and the jury have agreed not to disclose any information regarding the research projects that have been submitted until the awards ceremony.

The selection committee and the jury members have been granted full decision power in the winners' selection. Their decisions cannot be opposed. Neither will they need to be justified.

## **Article 8: Research Selection Criteria**

The selection committee and jury members will pay special attention to the following items:

- Quality of research work and contribution to the topic of finance and sustainability
- Originality of subject study or approach
- Academic evaluation of research work
- Research work interest according to investors', corporates' and/or stakeholders' point of view

## **Article 9: Research Work Restitution**

Research projects and additional documents submitted to the French SIF and PRI as part of an award application cannot be mailed back to the candidates. The French SIF will keep a copy of all the research projects for their archives.

## **Article 10: Agreement to Rules and Regulations**

The submission of an application for the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award" implies that the applicants fully agree with the hereby rules & regulations.

## **Article 11: Access to Rules & Regulations**

Rules & regulations of the award can be viewed on the French SIF web site at the following address: [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org)

## **Article 12: Circumstances Outside One's Control and Cancellation**

Under circumstances outside of one's control, the award organisers reserve the right to cancel or postpone the award ceremony.

## **Article 13: Right of Publicity**

The events surrounding the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award" will be advertised on paper (digital format included), as well as via visual and audio media.

Any of the participants, candidates, organisers, selection committee and jury members, and sponsors may see their name quoted in relation to the award, or their image broadcasted as part of live broadcastings taking place during events surrounding the award.

Participation in, as well as assistance with, the award implies full acceptance of the hereby rules & regulations, including the right to use the quoted names and the broadcasted images to advertise events surrounding the "FIR-PRI Finance and Sustainability European Research Award".

## **Article 14: Modifications to Rules & Regulations**

The hereby rules and regulations may be modified or completed without prior notification by the French SIF and PRI. However, any potential modification of the hereby rules & regulations will be announced and uploaded on the website [www.fir-pri-awards2012.org](http://www.fir-pri-awards2012.org).