General Terms and Conditions for the Research Award for Outstanding Early-Career Research in Wholesale, awarded by the Forschungsvereinigung Großhandel e.V. (ForveG, English: Research Association for Wholesale).

1. Preliminary Remarks

The Research Association for Wholesale (ForveG) supports scientific research in the field of functional wholesale and intermediary services. Its purpose is to initiate research projects, connect companies in the B2B trade and service sector with research institutions in trans- and interdisciplinary, application-oriented projects, to commission research, and to support early-career researchers. To this end, ForveG establishes a funded prize to recognize and promote outstanding research achievements by young scientists that contribute significantly to the understanding and the advancement of wholesale and its economic functions. The award particularly, though not exclusively, considers work focusing on the testing or analysis of innovative business models, technologies, software, or findings related to international markets or competitive conditions. It also recognizes works that may not have focussed on wholesale, but whose findings or results arguably contribute to the advancement of the wholesale sector.
This English version of the terms and conditions is intended to assist non-native speakers in applying for our award. The legally binding version is the German original.

2. Purpose of the Research Award

The award includes a monetary prize of at least €3,000 (three thousand euros), transferred to a SEPA-compatible bank account only. The prize amount may be increased by sponsors and for 2025 amounts to €9,000. All sponsors will be disclosed throughout the entire application and award process. The recipient and award decisions are made solely by the ForveG Board of Directors in accordance with the association's statutes. There is no legal entitlement to the prize, and any legal recourse is excluded. The decision is based on the recommendation of an expert review panel (jury) appointed by the board, which assesses submissions based on academic and industry-specific criteria.

Please note: prize recipients are responsible for managing their own tax matters.

3. Application Requirements

All individuals of legal age who have successfully completed a research project meeting the following criteria are invited to apply for the award:

I. The project must primarily fall into one or more of the following research fields:

   a. Technology, Software, Artificial Intelligence
   b. Design or Evaluation of New Business Models
   c. Logistics

d. Market Analysis
e. Business Administration
f. Economics
g. Business Education, Didactics, Vocational Training
h. Sustainability
i. Business Psychology
j. Economic Sociology

In addition, the research must demonstrate clear relevance to the field of functional wholesale. If a project cannot be clearly assigned to any of the categories above but is demonstrably relevant to wholesale, a justification is required (see section 4. II.).

II. The project must have been completed at a public or private (German Science Council-accredited) university or other recognized research institution, as part of a Master's program (or equivalent, such as state examination or diploma) or as a dissertation (or equivalent). Alternatively, the submission may result from a postdoctoral research group or third-party funded project, provided the applicant already holds a Master's degree (or equivalent). In such cases, the excellence of the work must be independently substantiated (e.g., by expert reviews or renowned publications).

III. If the work was completed at a university or institution outside Germany or affiliated with a non-German academic system, the academic status of the institution must be documented.

IV. The submitted work must have been originally written in either German or English.

V. The work must have received an average final grade of at least 1.5 (very good) according to the relevant examination regulations; for dissertations, at least "magna cum laude." If the work was created outside an official examination framework, excellence must be demonstrated separately (e.g., through peer reviews or renowned publications).

VI. The work must not be older than 24 months. The relevant date is either the final evaluation date according to examination or doctoral regulation or a documented publication date and the date of submission to ForveG.

VII. Only natural persons may apply. In the case of joint authorship, applications from up to three persons per submission are accepted. If such a submission is awarded, the prize will be divided accordingly. All co-authors must individually meet the personal requirements outlined in section 3 but must not have already reached a higher career status by the time of publication or examination. Applications from legal entities are not eligible.

4. Application Process

Applicants must submit their complete documents by a deadline announced by ForveG via its website and other channels.

Required documents (via email only):

I. The **full original work in PDF format**. If additional materials (e.g., imagery, audio, or video content) are essential, these can be shared via a secure cloud link only.

II. An **abstract** of the submitted work in PDF format, with a maximum of **12,000 characters** (including spaces and footnotes), written in German or English. The abstract must include the research question, context, literature background, methodology, analysis, **results, and especially their relevance for wholesale**. If the project does not clearly align with one of the predefined fields (see section 3. I.), the relevance must be explained in the abstract. A critical reflection on the findings is encouraged.

References to specific sections of the work may be included. Visuals or schematic elements may be integrated. A list of sources should be attached separately and is not included in the character limit. Please refrain from including further attachments. Footnotes count towards the limit and are kindly asked to be used sparingly. An official abstract template is available on the ForveG website.

III. **Evaluation documents**.
For Master's theses: typically, the Master's certificate including the thesis grade. If unavailable, equivalent documentation may be submitted.

For dissertations: the doctoral degree certificate or (in the case of a dissertation procedure that has not yet been formally completed) documentation confirming completion of all required assessments. Additional expert reviews may be submitted in both cases.

IV. An **anonymized CV** outlining academic and professional experience, as well as relevant qualifications and commitments.

V. **Not mandatory**: Up to **three additional documents**, such as publications, awards, peer reviews, or further expert opinions that support the quality or relevance of the work to wholesale. Personalized letters of recommendation will not be considered. If the work was created outside a formal academic framework, excellence must be proven as described in 3. II., III., and V., for which the three-document limit may be exceeded.

VI. Unless stated otherwise, submissions are accepted by email only. Postal or other forms of submission will not be recognized.

5. Award Process

After the deadline, no further applications will be accepted. Submissions will be formally reviewed and then made available to the ForveG expert panel. Personal data (e.g., age, gender, origin) will be anonymized to the most extend possible to ensure impartial evaluation. The expert panel will score each submission using a point-based system. Based on that the expert panel will propose at least on prize recipient to the board. Based on the proposal, the ForveG Board will determine the award winner in accordance with the association's statutes. There is no legal entitlement to the award.

In exceptional cases, if multiple entries are of equal merit, the award may be split between two submissions.

After the selection process, the winner(s) and the academic public will be informed. With the winners' consent, ForveG will publicly announce the results. As the award is intended to be presented personally, the recipient's **attendance** at the event would be **appreciated**.

6. Data Protection Notice

The data collected during this process will be used exclusively for the purpose of awarding the Research Prize for Outstanding Early-Career Research in Wholesale.

Controller: Research Association Wholesale (ForveG) e.V., Am Weidendamm 1a, 10117 Berlin, www.forveg.de

Legal basis: Article 6 (1)(b) GDPR

Data retention: Personal data will be deleted 180 days after the award process concludes, unless otherwise agreed with the participant.

Please also refer to our full data protection policy: www.forveg.de/datenschutz/

Stand: 3th February 2025