

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SESAR 3 JU Prize for Young Scientist Award 2025

N°	Subject	Reference in documents	Questions	Answers
1	Eligibility criteria	Sections 2 & 4.1 Contest rules	I was very interested in applying the SESAR young scientist award, but I also noticed the limitation of "within 18 months" of thesis defense (I will be out of the scope since I graduated officially 2022 November). I was wondering if I am already out of the scope of this award, or I should still try to apply.	Regarding eligibility to apply for the award within both – Student & PhD categories, please refer to Sections 2 & 4.1 of the Contest rules, where it is explicitly stated that in order to be eligible the applicants must have defended their thesis <i>"not more than 18 months before the date of closure of the present Contest."</i> Therefore, in case your thesis defense was in November 2022, you are not eligible to apply for this award.
2	Eligibility criteria	Sections 2 & 4.1 Contest rules	In light of the criteria of the contest rules that state <i>"Master thesis defended not more than 18 months before the date of closure of the present Contest; non-thesis programmes are considered not eligible"</i> , I was wondering whether undertaking an Independent Research Project (Graduate/Postgraduate Dissertation) falls within one of the thesis categories eligible for the contest.	As highlighted in the question, the Contest Rules, Section 2, page 5, requires that Bachelor's, Master's or PhD thesis (depending on the category of prize the applicant submits her/his candidature for) have been defended no more than 18 months prior to the call date. It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that their work falls within (or are to be considered as) one of the above-mentioned type of thesis. To this end, applicants may attach to their application any additional supporting documents confirming this. These supporting documents will be reviewed during the admissibility and eligibility verification phase (Phase I in accordance with Section 4.1 of the Contest rules).
3	Eligibility criteria	Sections 2 & 4.1 Contest rules	I need some information about the SESAR Young Scientist contest. I defended my PhD thesis on 20 February 2024, and I am wondering whether I am eligible to participate.	Regarding eligibility to apply for the award within the PhD category, please refer to Sections 2 & 4.1 of the Contest rules, where it is explicitly stated that in order to be eligible the applicants must have defended their PhD thesis <i>"not more than 18 months before the date of closure of the present Contest."</i> Therefore, in case your thesis defense was on 20 February 2024, you are not eligible to apply for this Contest.

4	Application file and Legal entity forms	Section 3.1 Documents submission requirements	Regarding the required documentation for the award application, I have a question. For the Legal Entity Form and the Financial Identification Form, which forms should be filled out? The link provided in the footnote of the contest rules document directs to a page containing several documents, and I am not sure which ones should be used.	Young Scientist applying for this contest shall use the “natural person” type as application is open only to natural person, not to private companies or public law bodies.
5	Eligibility criteria	4.1 Administrative phase	Looking at Section 4.1 on eligibility, it is unclear whether Master's theses must strictly be defended by oral examination are the only ones that count. In my case, there is no formal oral defence (viva voce), as it is a taught degree; instead, the dissertation is submitted for examination and assessed by academic staff. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether, in this context, my dissertation submission and examination process would be considered equivalent to having 'defended' a thesis for the purposes of eligibility.	The eligibility criterion for Master's degrees these requires “<i>a defended Master thesis in the area of Air Traffic Management and Aviation, not more than 18 months before the date of closure of the present Contest</i>”. This requirement applies regardless of whether the thesis defense was conducted orally or in writing. As regards the evidence to be submitted, the document shall bear the title and date. This date shall correspond to the date of defense of the thesis, marking of the written dissertation or award of the Master's degree, in case there is no formal evidence of the marking of the written dissertation.
6	Eligibility criteria	3.1 Documents submission requirements & 4.1 Administrative phase	I was registered for my PhD in Malta (an EU member state) from 2018 to 2025 and resided in Malta throughout the entire period from 2017-2025. I completed my studies in Malta in March 2025 and subsequently relocated to Canada, which is an associated country to the Horizon Europe research framework programme. I have held Permanent residency for Canada since 2018 and now I am permanently living here. Am I qualified to apply for the SESAR Young Scientist Award in the PhD category?	Applications to the Contest are open to young scientists who are either citizens or residents of an EU Member State or a country associated with the Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Framework Programme. As Canada is an Associated Country to Horizon Europe, residents of Canada are also eligible to apply. More information on Associated Countries can be found on https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en Please refer to page 8 of the Contest Rules for specific information on the evidence to be submitted.
7	Format of the documentation NEW!!	n/a	Could you please let me know whether the Application Form (Appendix A) and the Declaration of Honour (Appendix B) are available as editable Word templates (.docx)? If so, I would appreciate the files or a download link.	We have published Appendix A and Appendix B also in Word versions for the ease of use. If the applicants themselves converted these documents into Word (or equivalent) format, this is also acceptable, as long as no initial data therein was altered.