

FUTURE PROEF AWARD

CRITERIA FOR FINAL MASTER'S THESIS OR PROJECT

The jury will take into account the criteria below when assessing the final thesis or project. It is not necessary to meet all the criteria to have a chance of winning the Future Proef Award.

Please use the questions accompanying the assessment criteria as a guide when completing your justification form.

1. BROAD VIEW ON SUSTAINABILITY

The jury of the Future Proef Award will evaluate to what extent you demonstrate a **broad view on sustainability** in your research or project. This broad view is also referred to as 'systems view'.

The following questions can help you to develop and demonstrate a systems view in your work. However, it is not mandatory to cover all these questions.

Don't hesitate to get inspired by existing **sustainability models**. A selection of some interesting models can be found via the [inspiration page](#) on the website.

Use the following questions as guidance for your justification:

- In your research, did you consider **ecological** (for our planet), **economic** (for prosperity) and/or **social** (for people) dimensions? Did you analyse the research topic or question as much as possible from these 3 perspectives?
- Did you think about the different factors **affecting** the sustainability issue and how they are **interrelated**?
- In some cases, positive environmental, economic and social effects go hand in hand, but in other cases, a positive impact on one dimension goes together with negative consequences on one or more other dimensions. Did you pay attention to such **synergies and trade-offs** in your research or project?
- Did you approach the research topic from **different disciplines and different angles** and did you involve different stakeholders in your research (multi-,inter-, and/or transdisciplinary)?
- Did you pay attention to **existing power relations** in your final work? Did you challenge them?
- In your final thesis or project, did you analyse the **evolution** of the sustainability issue over time and how it has led to today's situation? This can help to gain **progressive insight** and come up with alternative solutions for the future.



2. IMPACT ON SOCIETY

The Future Proef Award jury will evaluate the potential positive impact of you/your final thesis or final project on **society**.

The following questions can help you to develop and demonstrate the (potential) impact of your work. However, it is not mandatory to cover all these questions.

Use the following questions as guidance for your justification:

- How can your work benefit **society**? To what kind of sustainability challenges does your research or project offers an answer? To what concrete effects could your work contribute directly and indirectly? Consider what kind of knowledge, insights, applications or ideas can contribute to the systems transformation.
- Through your final thesis, did you answer (on) a **question/need of a stakeholder** from the field, did you collaborate with this stakeholder for this purpose and/or will the final result be used by a stakeholder?
- Did you question existing transition processes or frameworks in your thesis or final project?
- Did you gain insights into your own values and emotions and into the role you would like to play in society in the future through your final thesis or project?

3. CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The Future Proef Award jury will assess to what extent you/your final thesis or project contributes to innovation for sustainability.

The following questions can help you to develop and demonstrate the level of **creativity and innovation** in your work. However, it is not mandatory to cover all these questions.

Use the following questions as guidance for your justification:

- Which elements in your work are **innovative**? These can be new concrete products or processes, but also new insights, ideas or concepts.
- How does your final thesis or project provide a **forward-looking perspective** on understanding or solving sustainability challenges?
- Do you contribute to the **development of new research questions** that can inspire future students or researchers to also engage in sustainability?

