

Call for applications – the best PhD thesis in the field of structural biology 2025

1. The Council of the Czech Society for Structural Biology has resolved at its meeting on 21/03/2025 to extend the **support for young researchers** in the field of structural biology in the form of a Competition for the best doctoral thesis (for obtaining a PhD degree or equivalent). The goal of the competition is to motivate young scientists to work in the field, to support a high level of research and study at Czech and Slovak universities in this field, and to contribute to the involvement of young scientists in the community of structural biologists and related fields.

2. **The submitted work must fulfill these conditions:**

- The thesis was successfully defended in the period 1/1/2025 - 31/12/2025 at a Czech or Slovak university.
- The field of research was structural biology or directly related fields.
- Structural studies of biological molecules form an essential part of the thesis and were carried out by the author.
- Language of submitted work: Czech, English, Slovak

3. **Deadline for submitting application:** January 9, 2026

Announcement of results: not later than February 13, 2026

4. **Evaluation of the competition**

The theses assessment process is entirely within the competence of the Council of the Society. The Evaluation Committee is formed by the Council and two external experts; more than two external experts may be involved, depending on the number of works submitted.

The theses will be assessed mainly according to the following criteria:

- The work belongs to the field of structural biology, or closely related; the extent and significance of the structural studies and contribution of the author
- The scientific level and importance of contribution to the given area of research
- Overall thesis quality
- Scientific publications of the author directly related to the submitted work

5. **Announcement of the results**

The Society will announce the results no later than on February 13, 2026.

The award ceremony will take place at the Discussions conference (March 2026).

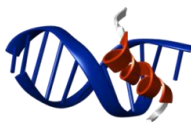
The winner will be invited to give a 30-minute lecture as part of the Discussions conference.

The prize includes a monetary reward of 25,000 CZK in the form of a scholarship and coverage of the regular conference fee for XXII Discussions in Structural Molecular Biology and 9th User Meeting of CIISB in 2026.

6. **Required documents**

The application includes all of the following documents:

- PhD thesis (dissertation) in electronic pdf format.
- Completed application form with a handwritten signature - a scan sent electronically is sufficient.



- A copy (scan) of a document serving as an evidence that the thesis was successfully defended in the relevant period.

Send the application via e-mail to the address duskovaj@ibt.cas.cz with the subject: **PHD AWARD**. In the case of larger documents (more than 10 MB), use a suitable service for sending large files (e.g. <https://filesender.cesnet.cz/>, <https://www.uschovna.cz/>, etc.). **You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application.**

7. Enrollment in the competition

The validity of the application will be confirmed electronically to the applicant within two working days. The application is valid after submission of the required documents and **confirmation of the receipt of the application**. The formal enrollment in the competition does not establish any right for assessment of the work or evaluation of the results (see below).

8. Other regulations

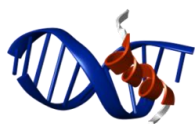
The Council reserves the right **not to award the prize** in the event of:

- Insufficient quality of submitted applications
- Failure to meet the competition criteria

There is no legal liability for any party following from their involvement in the competition – e.g. for assessment of any submitted documents, evaluation of the works or announcement of the results.

9. Communication

Questions regarding the Competition should be addressed to Dr. Jarmila Dušková at duskovaj@ibt.cas.cz (mobile 603308817) or to Dr. Jan Dohnálek at dohnalek@ibt.cas.cz.



Award for the best doctoral thesis in structural biology in 2025

Application form

Name and surname, incl. titles	
University awarding PhD	
Faculty	
Title of doctoral thesis	
Second affiliation (e.g. Institute of AS CR or other, leave blank if identical with University)	
Research group/laboratory	
Date of thesis defense	
Specify the type of document confirming successful defense of the PhD thesis (any of the following: a copy of a valid Committee record, a letter from the Committee Chairman, a photocopy of the diploma - if it states the date of defense - or other)*	

* It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide a credible proof of the successful defense within the dates indicated for this call. A photocopy is sufficient.

I provide consent that all the provided information may be used for publication using any means of communication of the Society (This does not apply to the Document confirming successful defense of the PhD thesis).

In.....Date.....

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Signature of the applicant