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Notice of competition for the Doctoral Dissertation Award in Artificial Intelligence in Entrepreneurship and Management (AIEM) Second Edition - 2025

FOREWORD

The award is conceived and developed by the Management and Entrepreneurship Research Group within the Department of Industrial Engineering at the University of Padua. This group is also responsible for periodically reviewing and updating the award's content and framework to ensure its relevance and alignment with evolving trends and needs.

The Research Group provides full financial support for the award with the aim of fostering innovation and excellence in the fields of management and entrepreneurship. The award is announced annually, maintaining a consistent and prestigious platform for recognizing outstanding contributions in these domains.

Art. 1 - PURPOSE

The primary objective of the award is to inspire and support studies and research in the field of artificial intelligence applied to management and entrepreneurship. In addition to fostering intellectual and technological progress, the award aims to create a dynamic and collaborative network among all participants, including candidates and finalists. This network will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange, professional growth, and collaborative opportunities

Art. 2 - RECIPIENTS

The award is open to Ph.D. graduates who have presented and successfully defended their doctoral theses between January 1, 2024, and the closing date of this announcement. Eligible applicants may be citizens of Italy, as well as any European or non-European country.

Art. 3 - THEMES

Doctoral dissertations may address the relationship and impact of Artificial Intelligence on Entrepreneurship and Management and in particular, by way of example, on:

- decision-making processes
- strategic planning using AI-driven simulations and modeling.
- human-AI collaboration in strategy formulation.
- predictive analytics
- predictive modeling for market trends and consumer behavior
- productivity improvements
- AI's role in minimizing inefficiencies in business operations
- performance analysis and improvement
- AI-based metrics for assessing individual and organizational performance
- new management methodologies
- agile management systems enhanced by AI tools

- functional integration and optimization of operations
- human resource management
- ethical implications of AI in employee monitoring and productivity assessment.
- personalized training and development programs using AI.
- organizational changes
- AI's role in digital transformation strategies
- innovation processes
- AI as a co-creator in product and service innovation
- accelerating the innovation pipeline with AI.
- investment processes
- AI in venture capital decision-making and funding allocation
- optimizing portfolio management using AI-driven analytics.
- risk management
- AI in detecting and mitigating operational and financial risks
- sustainability
- AI for designing sustainable business practices and models.
- the role of AI in achieving environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals
- business ethics
- ethical AI frameworks for entrepreneurship and management
- employment impacts and new jobs
- job displacement vs. creation: AI's dual role in the labor market
- business creation
- generative AI tools for ideation and concept development in startups
- building AI startups

The thesis may be interdisciplinary in nature and must make an independent and original contribution within the scope of the topics listed above, with scientific and/or applicative impacts on businesses or other public or private organizations.

Art. 4 - SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The application for participation in the competition, addressed to the Director of the Department of Industrial Engineering and drawn up according to the form attached to this notice,

- must be sent by e-mail, no later than **1:00 p.m. (Central Europe Time) of 31 May, 2025**, to the following address: direzione.dii@unipd.it.
- Static, non-directly modifiable formats, free of macro-instructions or executable codes, preferably PDFs, must be used.
- The subject of the e-mail message should be marked with the words Doctoral Dissertation Award in Artificial Intelligence in Entrepreneurship and Management (AIEM) Second Edition – 2025.

In the application for participation in the competition the candidate must declare under his/her own responsibility:

1. surname and first name, place and date of birth, citizenship, social security number, residence, the address elected for the purposes of the competition (specifying postcode, telephone number and

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- e-mail);
2. that he/she has defended, between January 1, 2024 and the expiration date of the announcement, a doctoral thesis, indicating the name of the University;
 3. to promptly notify any change of residence or address indicated in the application form;
 4. to be aware of all the rules contained in the call for applications.

The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

- curriculum vitae of the candidate, with particular reference to continuity of research, qualifications, including PhD, specializations, publications and awards obtained;
- description, in English (not exceeding 6,000 characters spaces excluded) of the Doctoral Thesis, the personal contribution made by the candidate, the relevant results obtained, and any scientific and applicative impact;
- the Doctoral Dissertation (in English) in .pdf format.
- copy of a valid personal identification document.

Applications that do not fully meet the required conditions will not be considered.

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of this notice. Falsification of documents and/or false declarations shall result in exclusion from the competition or the right to recourse in the case of a prize already awarded.

Art. 5 - EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

The evaluation of the applications will be entrusted to a committee of professors who are experts on the topics mentioned in Article 3 ("themes") consisting of 3 members.

Professors from Italian and foreign universities may be members of the commission.

The commission is appointed by the Director of the Department.

The committee, at its sole discretion, will identify the winner, and up to a maximum of 4 candidates with merit mention.

The ex-ante evaluation criteria are as follows:

- candidate's curriculum (continuity of research, titles, publications and awards achieved, projects carried out);
- original contribution of the candidate to the research carried out in the Doctoral Dissertation;
- degree of innovation and impact of the activity carried out at national and international level.

The Commission reserves the right not to award prizes if, in its sole discretion, no submitted application is deemed meritorious.

Art. 6 - PRIZES

The award for Doctoral Thesis on Artificial Intelligence in Entrepreneurship and Management (AIEM) for the 2025 edition is set at €5,000.00.

In addition, up to a maximum of 4 candidate(s) with certificate of merit will be awarded.

Art. 7 - ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS

The winner of the award and candidates with certificates of merit will be announced by September 2025. The winners will be notified of the awarding of the prize and certificates of merit by e-mail, at the address indicated in the application for the announcement.

Art. 8 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE MANAGER

Pursuant to Art. 4 of Law 241 of 7 August 1990 (New rules on administrative procedures and the right of access to administrative documents), Prof. Fabrizio Dughiero, Director of the Department of Industrial Engineering, is appointed as Administrative Procedure Manager.

Candidates are entitled to exercise their right of access to the acts of the competition procedure in accordance with the procedures set out in the "Regulations for the implementation of Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990 and subsequent amendments and additions regarding administrative procedures and the right of access to administrative documents of the University of Padua" Decree Rep. 1105/2014 of 23/04/2014.

Art. 9 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

With reference to the provisions of Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, "Code for the protection of personal data", concerning the protection of persons and other subjects with regard to the processing of personal data and, in particular, to the provisions of art. 13, the personal data provided by candidates will be collected at the University of Padua for the purposes of managing the competition and will also be processed in automated form.

The provision of such data is compulsory for the purposes of assessing the participation requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the competition.

The information provided may be communicated only to public administrations directly concerned with the university position of the candidates or with the running of the competition.

Interested parties are entitled to the rights set out in Articles 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the aforementioned Legislative Decree, which include the right to access the data concerning them, as well as certain complementary rights, including the right to rectify, update, complete or delete any data that is erroneous, incomplete or collected in terms that do not comply with the law, as well as the right to oppose its processing for legitimate reasons.

These rights may be asserted against the University of Padua - Via VIII Febbraio, 1848 n. 2, the data controller.

Art. 10 GENERAL INFORMATION

This notice of competition with the facsimile for the application form is available on the University of Padua website unipd.it/premi-studio-laureati and on the website of the Department of Industrial Engineering dii.unipd.it under the heading "Bandi".

Further information and detailed regulations can be requested directly from the Department of Industrial Engineering e-mail: direzione.dii@unipd.it

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Attached to this notice:
- Application Form

Padua

The Head of Department
Prof. Fabrizio Dughiero