



2012 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AWARD FOR RESEARCH INTO PUBLIC SECTOR AUDITING

This is the second edition of the “European Court of Auditors (ECA) Award for research into public sector auditing” for academic research linked to public audit and to the ECA’s mission and values. Its aim is to provide an incentive and recognition for research on public audit related issues.

OBJECTIVES

The award is addressed to European academics for their theses in the fields of theoretical and/or empirical studies related to public sector auditing, in particular within the European Union context. Subjects can include: audit methods and standards; financial, compliance and performance audit; audit of specific areas of EU finances; quality control; reporting; organisation and management; internal audit and control; and audit ethics.

ELIGIBILITY

The award is open to all postgraduates who have authored an academic research paper, either a Master’s or a PhD thesis. The viva examination must have taken place on or after 1 January 2010. To be eligible for the ECA Award candidates should be nationals of the European Union or have completed a thesis at an EU university.

PANEL

The award will be judged by a panel composed of three experts from public audit organisations, current or former Members of the European Court of Auditors and/or university professors from EU Member States.

PRIZE

The winner will receive **€ 5,000**, a medal and an award certificate.

DEADLINE

31 October 2012 at 17h00.

E-mail or postal applications to be sent or postmarked 31 October 2012 at the latest.



European Court of Auditors Award for research into public sector auditing - Juan Manuel Fabra Vallés

Presentation

In accordance with its mission and values, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) is committed to being at the forefront in developing public sector auditing, both in the EU and worldwide. The ECA has already been the subject of a number of publications of an empirical or scientific nature and it is keen to develop further active links with the scientific community.

For this reason the ECA established in 2010 the **“European Court of Auditors Award for research into public sector auditing”** for academic research linked to public audit and to the ECA’s mission and values, in order to provide an incentive and recognition for research on public audit related issues.

Each edition pays tribute to a person who has contributed through their work and example to the reputation of the ECA as a European institution at the forefront of the development of public auditing.

The first edition of the ECA award paid tribute to the memory of Mr **Jesús Lázaro Cuenca** and was granted jointly to Mrs Sara Belleil and Mr José Antonio Fernández Ajenjo in a public ceremony on 5 July 2011.

The second edition of the ECA Award pays tribute to the memory of **Juan Manuel Fabra Vallés**, former President of the ECA, who contributed greatly to the development of the ECA as the external auditor of the EU finances during his office as a Member of the Court and in particular during his Presidency of the institution. His sudden and untimely death in April 2012 was a great loss of a highly appreciated former colleague. Mr Fabra was held in very high esteem in his country and within the European Union institutions as well as at the Supreme Audit Institutions.

The **“European Court of Auditors 2012 Award for research into public sector auditing – Juan Manuel Fabra Vallés”** is governed by the following rules:



REGULATION ON THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS' 2012 AWARD FOR RESEARCH INTO PUBLIC SECTOR AUDITING

1. Subject

The award is addressed to European academics for their theses in the fields of **theoretical and/or empirical studies related to public sector auditing, in particular within a European Union context**. This covers, for example: audit methods and audit standards; financial, compliance and performance audit; audit of specific areas of the EU finances; quality control; reporting; organisational and management aspects; internal audit and control; or audit ethics.

2. Eligibility

The award is open to all postgraduates, who have written a Master's thesis or a PhD thesis. The viva examination must have taken place on or after 1st January 2010. To be eligible for this award candidates should be nationals of the European Union or to have completed a thesis at a university of the European Union.

3. Applications

Candidates shall submit:

1. by preference a PDF copy, or three printed copies, of their thesis;
2. a short summary (maximum 5 000 words) of the thesis;
3. a justification of why they consider the thesis to be relevant for the award (maximum 1 000 words);
4. a brief letter of recommendation from a professor at the university to which the thesis was submitted. This reference should set out the relevance of the thesis submitted for the award; in not more than 2 000 words,
5. their Curriculum Vitae.



The thesis itself (1) may be in any of the official languages of the European Union, but all other supporting documentation referred to above (2 to 5) should be submitted in either English or French. By preference, all the above documents, along with the checklist, should be submitted by email in PDF format.

In addition to the documents presented with the application, the selection panel may request further information from applicants.

By submitting the thesis, the applicant gives the ECA the right to publish the thesis on its website in the event of the thesis being selected for the award. For all other purposes, the copyright remains with the successful applicant.

4. Selection process

The ECA will submit the applications to a selection panel.

The selection panel for the “European Court of Auditors’ 2012 Award for research into public sector auditing – Juan Manuel Fabra Vallés” will be composed of three experts from public audit organisations, current or former Members of the European Court of Auditors and/or university professors from EU Member States.

The selection panel will assess the applications and identify the thesis which is considered to merit the award, and provide a brief justification of its choice.

The selection panel may propose not to confer the award if the submitted theses do not meet an outstanding level of quality. It may also confer the award jointly and *ex aequo* to two applicants.

The decision of the selection panel on the award winner shall be final.



5. Criteria

The fundamental criteria used in the assessment process shall be the originality, the innovative qualities, the significance and the overall quality of the applicant's contribution to the respective theme.

6. Awards ceremony

Following a formal decision by the European Court of Auditors taking note of the selection panel's decision, the winner(s) will be invited to a public ceremony at the ECA to receive the award and to deliver a lecture of up to 45 minutes. This will take place in Luxembourg in spring 2013, on a date to be established by the ECA.

By accepting the award, the winner(s) agree(s) that all future publications of the thesis or of any part of the thesis shall make reference to the "European Court of Auditors' Award for Research on Public Sector Auditing" and shall mention the year the award was conferred.

7. Award and prize

The winner(s) will receive from the ECA a medal, an award certificate and a prize of 5.000 euros.



8. Deadline

Applications shall be submitted with all documentation referred to under 3 - thesis and supporting documentation – by 31 October 2012 and shall be addressed to :

EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS
Secretariat of the European Court of Auditors Awards
Library
12 rue Alcide De Gasperi
L-1615 Luxembourg
eca-award-2012@eca.europa.eu

Applications arriving after this date at the ECA will not be admitted for the award selection procedure.



European Court of Auditors' 2012 Award for Research into Public Sector Auditing

CHECKLIST: MUST BE RETURNED, SIGNED AND DATED

(the applicant is requested to fill in the following checklist legibly)

	Documents attached!?		Comments
	Yes	No	
(1) A PDF copy (or three printed copies) of the thesis			
(2) A short summary of the thesis (maximum 5 000 words)			
(3) A justification of why the applicant considers the thesis to be relevant for the award (maximum 1 000 words)			
(4) A brief letter of recommendation from a professor at the university to which the thesis was submitted. This reference should set out, in not more than 2 000 words, the relevance of the thesis submitted for the Award			
(5) The Curriculum Vitae of the applicant			

Name and post of signatory
Signature

Date.....

1 Tick the appropriate box