



Una Europa PhD Impact Award

Entry guidelines

What is this competition about?

This competition aims to recognise and celebrate the impact, and potential impact, of research and researchers. It aims to encourage PhD students and early career researchers to reflect on their research practice and to consider how it impacts on society and contributes to the world. Being able to articulate the impact of research is an essential skill for all researchers. Those who take part will benefit from a chance to share their work with the Una Europa community and to receive recognition and encouragement for their efforts.

The competition is run by [Una Europa](#).

Who is eligible to enter?

This competition is open to all PhD students, also known as doctoral researchers or PhD researchers, currently undertaking a PhD at one of the 11 [Una Europa partner universities](#). (Students may enter during their PhD, up until the time of their PhD defence.)

What do we mean by ‘impact’?

What difference does your research make? Who is affected by it? Who benefits from it? What change will occur as a result of your research?

There are many ways your research can have ‘impact’. Think about the contribution your research could make using the following categories for inspiration:

- Society. What community groups or people might benefit from your research in the future?
- Economy. Will your research lead to any economic benefits for companies, governments, or other groups?

- Environment. What is the environmental impact of your research? Could it help to protect the environment or tackle the climate crisis?
- Health. Does your research improve patient outcomes, investigate disease or reduce health inequality?
- Education. Does your research contribute to education, training or upskilling?
- Technology. Does your research improve products, processes or services?
- Culture. Could your research enhance culture or improve intercultural understanding?
- Policy. Will your research influence policymakers or contribute to political stability?

Think about the short-, medium- and long-term impact, or potential impact, of your research. How many people will your research affect? Will it have a significant effect?

Can you justify or provide any evidence of the impact?

For more inspiration on impact, refer to University College Dublin's **Impact Toolkit**:

- <https://www.ucd.ie/impacttoolkit/>
- <https://www.ucd.ie/impacttoolkit/whatisimpact/>

How to fill out the Impact Case Study template?

Download the case study template and fill out each field, following the instructions on the sheet. Think about your research from the perspective of a non-expert. Approach the case study with a non-scientific, non-technical audience in mind. Anyone without expert knowledge should be able to understand the case study. Avoid jargon and technical language.

When completed, email the case study to marie-julie.jacquemot@fu-berlin.de, Senior Project Lead for Una.Futura at Freie Universität Berlin.

How will entries be judged?

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Significance of impact (40 percent)

- How important is the research? How many people could benefit from it? Is the impact short term or long term?
- Communication of impact (30 percent)
 - How well have you told the story of your research? Is the language understandable and accessible? Have you stayed within the word count?
- Evidence of impact (30 percent)
 - Is the potential impact realistic? Is there any data to support your claims?

What happens next?

The call for applications is open until midnight, **15 September 2024**. The winner(s) will be notified by mid-October.

Winners will be invited to attend the Una Europa Gathering in Bologna in November, to showcase their research and meet fellow researchers. Winners will be invited to a storytelling workshop in advance of the Gathering. A number of winners and finalists will have their case studies published online.