

ECONOMIC JOB MARKET BEST PAPER AWARD**COMPETITION FOR 5 BEST PAPERS****13th Edition – year 2026**

UniCredit Foundation, in cooperation with the European Economic Association, launches the thirteenth edition of the **Economic Job Market Best Paper Award** for PhD candidates/graduates who will participate to the **European Job Market for Economists in 2026**.

Call for papers

The Economic Job Market JM Best Paper Award is aimed at all **PhD candidates/graduates** that will participate to the European Job Market for Economists 2026, irrespective of their nationality and of the university in which they are enrolled.

Prizes will be awarded to **5 outstanding Job Market Papers** on topics related to general economic subjects. Each of the 5 best papers will receive **€ 1,000 gross of tax**.

Conditions for Participation

1. Applicants will be required to confirm the following declarations as part of the online application form:

- **Authorization allowing UniCredit Foundation to process the data provided for scientific and research purposes**, including statistical analysis, and to share such data with its researchers and trusted third parties for the same purposes. Any such data will be shared in anonymized form (i.e. without direct identifiers such as forename and surname) and in full compliance with applicable data protection legislation.
- **Consent to processing of personal data** pursuant to regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016.

2. Applications **must be accompanied by the following documents** (PDF format):

- 1) copy of a current **identity document** (in the original language)
- 2) **Curriculum Vitae**
- 3) A document testifying candidate **attendance at the European Job Market in December 2026**
- 4) **Job Market paper**
- 5) **Declaration on the use of AI tools** during the preparation of the paper, specifying whether and how such tools were used, and **confirming that the paper is the applicant's own original work and that they take full responsibility for its content, accuracy, originality, and integrity**.

In addition, one **reference letter** must be sent directly by the candidate's main thesis advisor/referee via e-mail to the Foundation address info@unicreditfoundation.org. Each advisor/referee may **present only one candidate under this call**. Applicants must **inform their advisor/referee of this requirement** and ensure that they are not supporting any other applicant in the competition.

3. If the paper has been submitted for other prizes or grants, this circumstance must be mentioned in the application.

4. Applicants shall indicate whether the submitted paper or parts thereof have already been published, and – if so – when and in which form.

5. Preference will be given to non-coauthored papers.

6. Papers and all the accompanying documents must be **in English** and in **PDF format** and must be submitted using the **online application**

interface available on the Foundation's website at <https://www.unicreditfoundation.org>.

Application Procedure and Deadline

Applications must be received by the **compulsory deadline of 12 October 2026 at 23:59 CET (Central European Time)**. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from competition. As soon as the procedure is completed, the candidate will receive a confirmation message to her/his e-mail address.

Selection Process

The Foundation's Scientific Committee will be responsible for the selection procedure. To carry out the selection, the Scientific Committee could be supported also by external experts/academic representatives.

The review process shall assess the quality and originality of the paper, as well as its suitability for publication in international peer-reviewed academic journals.

Authors of awarded papers will be notified by **November 20, 2026**.

UniCredit Foundation shall have the right to inform the public about awarded papers through press releases or other channels of communication (e.g., UniCredit Foundation websites).

The names of the winners shall be published on the UniCredit Foundation website, <https://www.unicreditfoundation.org/en>, in the dedicated "News & Media" section. The publication of the results on the Foundation's website shall constitute official notification of the outcome of the competition. Applicants are therefore invited to consult the website.

By submitting their papers, applicants consent to the above terms and conditions. The granting of awards shall entail no further obligations for the Foundation and UniCredit.

Winners may mention the award in their academic and professional applications and may communicate this achievement to prospective employers, academic institutions, research centers, and other relevant organizations.

Post-Award Requirements

Winners must submit:

- 1) A recent passport-style photo in high resolution for communication purposes (PNG, JPEG format; image quality suitable for publication and communication materials);
- 2) A signed consent form authorizing UniCredit Foundation to use photo images for promotional, communication, and publication activities, in compliance with data protection regulations.

Acceptance of Terms and Conditions

Taking part in the competition entails unconditional acceptance of all the articles of this notice.

Furthermore, UniCredit Foundation reserves the right to publicly disclose the names of award recipients, as well as excerpts and information related to the awarded research paper, through institutional communication channels - such as press releases, the Foundation's website, or other media - in compliance with data protection regulations, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

Milan, 20 July, 2026