

Guidelines for the awarding of the dissertation prize by the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University in honour of Arthur Getis of 12 October 2026

Pursuant to Sections 2(4) and 26(3), second sentence, of the Act on Higher Education Institutions in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act – HG) of 16 September 2014 (GV. NRW. p. 547), as last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 21 July 2026 (GV. NRW. p. 552), the Department of Spatial Planning at Technical University has issued the following guidelines:

Preamble

The Arthur Getis Award is intended to promote outstanding student theses in the fields of methodological, conceptual, or empirical quantitative spatial science and to make them accessible to a wider public. By dedicating the award to Professor Arthur Getis, who passed away in 2022, the aim is to honour his contributions to spatial statistics and the organic integration of technical and analytical perspectives with expertise in spatial and social sciences that he embodied.

§ 1

Purpose

Each year, the Department of Spatial Planning awards the Arthur Getis Award to one author of an outstanding final-year dissertation supervised and written at the Department of Spatial Planning, in the categories 'Bachelor's dissertation' and 'Master's dissertation' respectively.

§ 2

Eligibility

For the purposes of this guideline, only a finalised dissertation that has been awarded a mark of at least 1.3 (very good) and that stands out for its high standard of academic rigour may be classified as 'excellent'. When assessing whether a high academic standard has been achieved, the following criteria in particular shall be taken into account:

1. Very good command of quantitative concepts and/or methodologies;
2. Originality in identifying research questions and in the selection of appropriate academic approaches;
3. Comprehensive contextualisation of the work within current and relevant literature;
4. Form of presentation, particularly with regard to clarity, logical flow, and comprehensibility;
5. Appropriate critical reflection on one's own work at a high standard.

§ 3

Application procedure

- (1) Nominations may be made either through self-nomination or on the recommendation of a supervisor.
- (2) Bachelor's and Master's theses completed at the Department of Spatial Planning during the award period between 1 April of the previous year and 31 March of the current year are eligible for nomination. The date on which the grade is published in the examination administration system is decisive.
- (3) Applications and nominations must be submitted via an email address set up for this purpose and must include the following details:
 1. Name of the candidate and their home or work address;
 2. Names of the supervisors as well as institutional affiliation, if a supervisor is not a member of the Department of Spatial Planning;
 3. title of the thesis and grade;
 4. the reports prepared for the assessment of the thesis, provided that the candidate has first obtained the consent of the examiners for this purpose;
 5. a statement of reasons for the application or nomination, not exceeding two pages, which refers in particular to the quantitative aspects of the work;
 6. a digital copy of the nominated thesis (in the case of large files, submission via a file-sharing service is permitted) and a one-page summary;
 7. proof of the date on which the final thesis was successfully completed.

§ 4

Amount of the prize

- (1) The prize amount is:
 1. in the 'Bachelor's thesis' category, €150, and
 2. in the 'Master's Thesis' category, €150.
- (2) The prize is indivisible.

§ 5

Awarding of the Prize

- (1) A jury comprising the heads of the research group 'Spatial Modelling' and 'Landscape Planning', as well as two further members with a PhD from outside the faculty, shall decide on the award of the prize. The two further members shall be appointed anew each year by the heads of the aforementioned research groups.
- (2) The prize is awarded during the annual graduation ceremony ('Faculty Day') of the Department of Spatial Planning by the heads of the research groups 'Spatial Modelling' and 'Landscape Planning'.

§ 6

Entry into force

This policy shall come into force on the day following its publication in the Official Notices of TU Dortmund University.

Note

It should be noted that, in accordance with Section 12(5) of the Law on Higher Education Institutions in the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Higher Education Act – HG NRW), a breach of procedural or formal requirements under the university's regulations or other autonomous law may no longer be invoked one year after this notice has been published, unless

- 1) the regulations have not been duly published,
- 2) the Rectorate has previously objected to the decision of the body that adopted the regulations,
- 3) the procedural or formal defect has been previously raised as an objection with the university, specifying the legal provision that has been breached and the fact giving rise to the defect,
- 4) or the legal consequence of the exclusion of objections was not indicated in the public notice of the regulations.

Drawn up pursuant to the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Department of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University dated 6 May 2026.

Dortmund, 12 October 2026

The Rector

of TU Dortmund University

Professor Dr Manfred Bayer