



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

University Distinguished Master's Thesis Award

Due: **Monday September 25, 2023**

Purpose: According to plans developed by faculty committees and approved by the Graduate Council, each degree granting program of The University Graduate School may nominate one "truly outstanding" Master's thesis for consideration by a committee of faculty reviewers. The Awards Committee of the Graduate Faculty Council will consider such criteria as originality, documentation, significance, accuracy, organization, and style. The winner in each category will then be nominated for the 2024 MAGS (Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools)/ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards.

Eligibility Criteria: Master's students must have received a Master's degree from The University Graduate School or The Graduate Office at IUPUI) during the two previous academic years (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2023). Original works accepted "in lieu of a thesis" (e.g. musical compositions, published books, works of art, computer software, etc.) are not eligible for nomination.

Award: Four awards of \$1,500 each, two for each campus (IUB and IUPUI). An award will be given in each category for each campus, which match the fields of competition for this year's MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards:

- ❖ Biological/Life Sciences
- ❖ Humanities

Note: The fields of competition for next year's University Distinguished Master's Thesis Award will be Social Sciences and Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Nomination Process: Nominations may be made by a Director of Graduate Studies or Departmental Chair. Each department may only **nominate one Master's thesis**. If an academic unit has a "**truly outstanding**" thesis, the Director of Graduate Studies or Chair is encouraged to place it in nomination by submitting the following, in the order listed below:

- ❖ **Letter of nomination** from the Department Chairperson, or from a Faculty member designated by the Chairperson
- ❖ **Letters of support from two members of the research committee.** One must come from the research adviser. A list of the questions which the committee of reviewers will consider when awarding the Master's Thesis Award follows. The members of the research committee are invited to address these issues in their nominating letters
- ❖ **A non-technical 300 word abstract** which can be easily understood by all of the members of the committee of reviewers (who come from a wide variety of different disciplines spanning the humanities, social sciences, and sciences). The abstract should include the title of the thesis and the name of the author (but not list IU as the institution in order to conform to the MAGS Thesis Award Guidelines).
- ❖ An **electronic copy of the thesis** (will not be returned)

Student Deadline: Students must contact their department for the internal deadline. The nomination must be submitted by the department. We will not accept any self-nominations. Schools/Departments are responsible for contacting the candidates who have applied, but were not chosen for nomination.

Department Deadline:

The nomination needs to be submitted by Monday, September 25, 2023 (link coming soon). Departments are responsible for contacting the candidates that have applied, but were not chosen for the nomination.

Please note: These nominations will automatically be considered for the MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Award. If you do not wish to be considered for this award, please contact the Graduate Fellowships & Awards Coordinator at ugsawrd@indiana.edu

Questions may be directed to the Graduate Fellowships & Awards Coordinator by email at ugsawrd@indiana.edu

Questions to be considered by the Committee of Reviewers

- ❖ **Characteristics of the Research.** How important is the subject treated in this study? How extensive and how original is the material collected by the author? Does the study present an original claim or thesis? How effectively does the author demonstrate this?
- ❖ **Contribution to Team Research.** If the thesis is the result of a group effort (i.e., in a research laboratory), to what extent are the data and arguments presented in this study due to the author?
- ❖ **Application of the Results.** To what extent could the theory presented in the study be extended beyond its present applications? How much revision is necessary before the study could be published? What portions of it have already been published or accepted for publication?
- ❖ **Construction of the Study.** How would you evaluate the grammar, spelling, and syntax; the clarity of expression; and the general style of the dissertation?
- ❖ **Limitations of the Study.** In your opinion, how could this study be improved?