

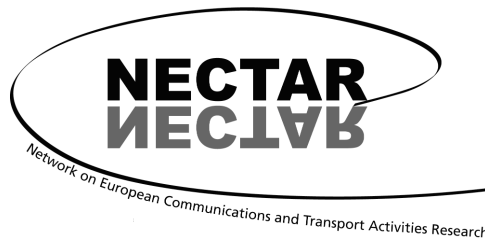
2026 NECTAR PhD AWARD

In many NECTAR meetings, workshops and conferences, PhD students present and discuss their work. To recognize the high quality of the research conducted by the best of the PhD students supervised by NECTAR members, NECTAR awards a PhD award at its international Conference. The first award was given at the 2015 international conference in Ann Arbor, USA. The PhD award is established in memory of Professor Piet Rietveld, who chaired NECTAR in the years 2002-2007 and who, with his exceptional academic abilities, inspired and stimulated many young researchers, PhD students and the NECTAR community in general.

The 6th NECTAR PhD award will consider PhD theses written in English that have been or will be defended between July 2024 and June 2026. We will also consider submissions consisting of sets of journal papers that are to be included in a future thesis, and which are representative of its quality. PhD thesis work can be submitted only by a supervisor who should be a NECTAR member (i.e., 2025 and 2026 membership is paid).

To be considered, the PhD thesis should be in the general realm of NECTAR research, including topics from the fields of regional and urban economics, transport economics, urban/regional planning, transport planning and transport engineering. The PhD thesis should relate to one or more of the NECTAR cluster themes: (1) transport infrastructure impacts and evaluation, (2) transport policy and environment, (3) logistics and freight, (4), urban mobility transitions, (5) leisure, recreation and tourism, (6) accessibility, (7) social and health issues in transport, and (8) information and communication technologies.

Dissertations will be judged by a committee comprising former NECTAR Presidents and current NECTAR cluster co-chairs. The chair of the 2026 NECTAR PhD Award committee is Professor Karst Geurs, University of Twente, the Netherlands.



The author of the winning paper will be invited to present the research at the plenary closing session of the NECTAR conference in Munich, July 13-15, 2026. The winning author will receive reimbursement for travel and accommodation cost for the conference, and NECTAR membership for two years. PhD supervisors should make sure the nominated PhD student is informed about the nomination and willing and able to attend the conference in person.

Criteria for assessment are (i) scientific quality, i.e., quality and extent of theoretical, empirical and further methodological work and advances, (ii) originality of contribution to knowledge within the NECTAR field of research, (iii) societal and policy relevance, and (iv) writing/presentation, i.e. writing style and other aspects of presentation in term of accuracy, clarity, readability, and organisation of the thesis.

PhD supervisors who wish to nominate a PhD thesis for the NECTAR PhD Award should send (a) a nomination letter explaining why the PhD thesis is nominated, (b) an electronic copy of the summary of the thesis in PDF format and (c) the completed or draft PhD thesis in PDF format. The submission deadline is February 16, 2026. The nominations should be sent to the NECTAR secretariat (Daniela Arias Molinares) at nectar.secretariat@gmail.com.

The winner of the 2024 NECTAR PhD award will be announced at the end of April 2026.

We look forward to receiving the nominations for the NECTAR PhD award!

Prof. dr. Karst Geurs, Chair of the 2026 NECTAR PhD Award, NECTAR vice-chair, University of Twente, the Netherlands

Dr. Benjamin Büttner, NECTAR vice-chair, Technical University of Munich, Germany

Prof. dr. Maria Attard, NECTAR Chair, University of Malta, Malta

NECTAR is a European-based scientific association. The primary objective is to foster research collaboration and exchange of information between experts in the field of transport, communication and mobility from all European countries and the rest of the world. It is a multidisciplinary social science network bringing together a wide variety of perspectives on transport and communication problems and their impacts on society in an international perspective. For further information on NECTAR, use the link: <http://www.nectar-eu.eu>.