

We at the **Diversity and Gender Policy Unit of Ghent University** and the city service **Welfare and Equal Opportunities** proudly present:

The DiverGent Thesis Prize



In the academic year 2018-2019, the Diversity and Gender Policy Unit of Ghent University will award a prize for the best and most innovative master's thesis in which gender and/or diversity play a central role. This will be done in cooperation with the City of Ghent. The thesis prize is open to all Ghent University students who submitted their thesis during the academic year 2017 – 2018.

What does DiverGent stand for?

DiverGent stands for contradiction and ambivalence. A Divergent vision is necessary to be able to make an innovative contribution to social debates and to offer policy solutions.

With the presentation of the DiverGent Thesis Prize, the Diversity and Gender Policy Unit wishes to recognise, and underline, the importance of this vision. The Policy Unit is a great believer in thinking outside the box, which is also one of Ghent University's key ambitions.

The prize

The award consists of a €500 cash prize for the winner and an honourable mention for the other two nominees. The winner and the two nominees will present their thesis at the first lunchtime lecture¹ of the year, on the 5th of February 2019, when the ceremony will take place. Moreover, the winner will be invited to rework the research results from the thesis for an article that is to be submitted to the editors of DiGeSt² and/or Samenleving en politiek³.



¹The Diversity and Gender Policy Unit organizes bimonthly afternoon lectures where it pools expertise on research, education and policy staff who work on gender and/or diversity.

²DiGeSt is a peer-reviewed academic journal that is published twice a year and is dedicated to research at the intersection of diversity and gender. For more information, please visit: <http://www.digest.ugent.be>.

³Samenleving en politiek is a monthly journal. See more at: <http://www.sampol.be/samenleving-en-politiek>

Who can participate?

- Every master student enrolled at Ghent University has time until 5 October of the academic year following that in which the Master was completed to put their name down.
- Participants competing for the award ceremony in February 2019 should, therefore, graduate in 2017-2018 and have passed all the course units and the thesis.
- For the master thesis, the participating applicants must achieve a mark of at least 16/20. The thesis may be about any topic as long as it has an academic and/or policy-related relevance for diversity and/or gender-based issues.

Participation and procedure

You can take part by completing the online registration form⁴ of the Diversity and Gender Policy Unit. Please include a digital version of your thesis written in Dutch or English, along with a brief explanation that covers the following topics:

- Describe your master thesis in maximum 500 words
- Why is it relevant to gender and/or diversity?
- Clarify to what extent the work potentially contributes to the societal anchoring of gender mainstreaming and diversity and is relevant to policy-making in this regard.

Every year, the jury is composed of a mix of five academics and policy staff. The members of the jury will first make a pre-selection based on the online registration forms, the abstracts the relating questions. Participants will receive confirmation of receipt of their submission after 5 October and will be notified in early December as to whether they made it to the shortlist, i.e. the list of three nominees. The ultimate winner of the DiverGent Prize will be announced at the first lunchtime lecture of the year, On the 5th of February 2019. Should the quality of the entries prove unsatisfactory, the jury has the right not to award the thesis prize.

Accepted entries will be judged on three criteria:

- Academic quality
- Innovative gender and diversity-related concept
- Style, readability and gender-neutral language use⁵



⁴Online registration form: <https://www.ugent.be/en/ghentuniv/diversity-and-gender/divergent>

⁵The screening for gender-neutral language is intended to support authors and can be found on the website of the Diversity and Gender Policy Unit. <https://www.ugent.be/gendertoets.html>