

## Call for applications for the awarding of the "AQVA" degree award Edition No.3/2026

The **Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS**, with the support of **Almaviva Bluebit Spa Società Benefit**, in collaboration with the **Associazione Alumni dell'Università degli Studi di Padova**, and under the patronage of the **Schools of Engineering, Science, and Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Padua**, is launching the call for applications for the "AQVA – III edition 2026" degree award.

### Objectives

The award aims at recognizing and supporting outstanding young talents by highlighting their skills and knowledge, and by awarding the best Master's or Single-Cycle Master's dissertation that stands out for its ability to propose innovative solutions in one or more of the following areas:

- Climate change and water scarcity: adaptation to climate change, impact reduction, and prediction of critical events;
- Water governance: planning and organization at local, regional, national, and international levels for optimal water resource management using advanced modeling and digital tools;
- Asset management in water utilities: planning and modernization of water networks at local, regional, national, and international levels for optimal water resource management using state-of-the-art modeling and digital tools;
- Data, Artificial Intelligence, and advanced algorithms: enabling tools for prediction in asset management activities.

### Eligibility criteria for the call for application

The award is intended for individuals under 28 years of age as of the publication date of this call. Eligible applicants must have obtained a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle Master's degree from the Schools of Engineering, Science or Agricultural and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Padua between January 1, 2025, and the deadline of this call. Eligible applicants must have worked or be working on a dissertation on the specified topics.

Candidates who applied for the previous editions of this competition are not eligible to apply.

Applicants are also required, at the time of submitting their application, to register their profile free of charge on the Alumni Association of the University of Padua portal, using the online form available at [www.alumniunipd.it/member-register](http://www.alumniunipd.it/member-register).

### Application procedure and deadlines

The application, addressed to the President of the dell'Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS, must be completed on the attached form (Attachment A) and should be signed in original form. Non-compliance will result in exclusion from the competition. Applications must be submitted by the non-extendable deadline of **September 30, 2026**, via the online form at this [link](#), using one of the following methods:

-signed with a certified digital signature on both the application and all documents requiring a handwritten signature;  
-signed by hand, along with a copy of the applicant's valid ID.  
All documents requiring a handwritten signature must similarly be submitted signed copies. Scanned copies of these documents should be provided.

The following documents must be submitted along with the application (Attachment A) via the online form at this [link](#), under penalty of exclusion from the competition:

- Master's dissertation or Single-Cycle Master's dissertation (in PDF format);
- Documentation certifying any relevant projects, publications, or awards related to the theme of this competition, indicating the candidate's contribution;
- Letter of reference written by the dissertation supervisor, aimed at outlining the candidate's academic path and personal contribution to the thesis;
- Video statement of motivation in support of the application (max. 2 minutes);
- Curriculum vitae et studiorum;
- Copy of a valid personal identification document.

Applications that do not fully meet the required conditions will not be considered. By submitting an application, candidates accept the terms and conditions of this competition in full.

Any falsification of documents or submission of false information will result in disqualification from the competition or, if the award has already been granted, may require repayment.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

### **Amount of the award and payment method**

N°2 prizes of 3,000.00 Euro (three thousand/00) will be awarded, inclusive of all charges to be paid by the organization, will be awarded and distributed as follows:

- a Prize of € 2.000,00 (two thousand/00) for the 1<sup>st</sup> place dissertation
- a Prize of € 1.000,00 (one thousand/00) for the 2<sup>nd</sup> place dissertation

The prizes will be paid by the Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS.

### **Awarding procedure**

The award will be granted based on the final and binding decision of a Committee composed of at least three members representing the University of Padua, Almaviva Bluebit Spa Società Benefit and the Associazione degli Alunni e degli Amici dell'Università di Padova.

The Committee will evaluate the submitted applications based on the following criteria:

- candidate's curriculum studiorum;
- content of the dissertation project in relation to its alignment with the objectives and themes of the competition;
- the candidate's personal contribution to the research underlying the dissertation;
- degree of innovation and impact of the project on the national and international landscape, including the methodologies used;
- economic, social, cultural, and scientific prospects and implications.

The Committee reserves the right not to award the prizes if, in its sole judgement, none of the submitted applications are deemed worthy.

The Committee also reserves the right to grant one or more special recognitions to deserving candidates, including the opportunity of a six-month internship at Almaviva Bluebit Spa Società Benefit.

The winner will be notified of the award via email to the address provided in the application.

The winner will also be informed of the date of the award ceremony, which they are required to attend.

### **Person in charge of the administrative procedure**

Pursuant to article 4 of Law 241 of 7 August 1990 (New rules on administrative procedure and right of access to administrative documents), the administrative manager of the Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS is appointed as the person in charge of the administrative procedure.

Candidates may exercise their right of access to the application documents according to the provisions of Italian Presidential Decree No. 184 of 12 April 2006 (Regulation governing access to administrative documents pursuant to Chapter V of Law 241/90).

### **Processing of personal data**

Personal data collected for the purposes set out in this call for applications is processed in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) No. 679 of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR).

The "Data Controller" is the Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS, with registered office in Via 8 Febbraio, 2 - 35122 Padua, Italy.

The full privacy policy is available from the Data Controller or at <https://www.amiciunipd.it/privacy/>

### **General information**

This call for applications will be available on the following websites:

[www.amiciunipd.it](http://www.amiciunipd.it)

[www.alumniunipd.it](http://www.alumniunipd.it)

[www.unipd.it/premi-studio-laureati](http://www.unipd.it/premi-studio-laureati)

<https://www.almaviva-bluebit.it/>

Further information and detailed regulations can be obtained directly from the Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS, website: [www.amiciunipd.it](http://www.amiciunipd.it) e-mail: [amiciunipd@unipd.it](mailto:amiciunipd@unipd.it)

Padua, February 4th, 2026

Enrico Del Sole

President

Associazione degli Amici dell'Università di Padova ETS

*Digitally signed in compliance with d.lgs. 82/2005*

