KOG THESIS PRIZE FOR MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENTS - RULES & REGULATIONS

The Royal Antiquarian Society (hereinafter referred to as: KOG) is offering the opportunity to compete for a thesis prize for the second time in 2026. Eligible candidates are students in the master's phase of art and (cultural)history and heritage and restoration research programs at Dutch universities and universities of applied sciences. In principle, the prize is awarded once every two years. The prize amounts to €1,000 per winning thesis.

1. Description

The aim of the prize is the promotion of research in art history and (cultural) history related to the creation, history, presentation and management of (public) collections in the Netherlands, such as museums, archives and libraries, and the roles of collections in this regard. Various perspectives are conceivable.

2. Eligible candidates

The prize is to be awarded once every two years to students who have written a master's thesis achieving a mark of 8 or higher in the degree programmes of art history and (cultural) history and heritage and restoration research at universities and colleges (WO/HBO) in the Netherlands.

Theses completed during the period 2024-2026 are eligible for the KOG Thesis Prize 2026. The deadline for submissions is 31 August 2026.

3. The prize

The KOG Thesis Prize has been made possible by a private initiative and will award € 1,000 for the winning thesis selected by the jury. The prize will be awarded to the author(s) of the best master's thesis among the submissions.

4. Jury

Submitted theses will be judged by the jury of the KOG Thesis Prize (hereafter: the jury).

The members of the jury will be appointed by the board of the KOG. The jury will consist of at least 4 members and will be chaired by the KOG Endowed Professor. The president of the KOG board may serve in the latter's place.

The members of the jury will be appointed for a period of 4 years; a one-time reappointment of four years at the end of this term is possible.

5. Judging criteria

5.1. Submissions of theses eligible for the KOG Thesis Prize will be judged by the jury according to the following criteria:

- Scientific value to the disciplines of art history, (cultural) history, and heritage and restoration research
- Clarity
- Originality
- Force of argumentation
- Social relevance can be a plus.

5.2. The jury is not obliged to make public the judging of a thesis.

6. Jury procedure

6.1. The deliberations of the jury are confidential. The jury will draw up a written report in which the choice of winner will be explained. The jury's report will be read out at the presentation of the prize and subsequently published on the KOG website.

6.2. Should the jury conclude that the submissions are of insufficient quality, it may opt not to award the KOG Thesis Prize for that year.

6.3. Theses written under the supervision of (one of) the members of the jury are also eligible for the thesis prize. The jury member(s) in question will then expressly abstain from the judging of the thesis.

6.4. The jury has the right to consult external experts in the judging of the submitted theses. These experts will also abide by the confidentiality requirements.

6.5. Prior to and following the presentation of the prize, the KOG will devote attention to the prize, the jury, the presentation and the prize winner via its own channels (including the website).

6.6. Should the thesis be written by more than one person, the prize sum per thesis remains the same.

7. Conditions for participation

7.1. Master's theses in the disciplines of art history, (cultural) history, heritage studies, museum studies and restoration research are eligible for the 2026 thesis prize. This includes the history of collection by individuals, institutions and museums, reception research, research in relation to restorations, object studies, and research into associations.

7.2. The thesis must have been produced by a student who is or has been enrolled in a master's degree programme at a university or college in the Netherlands.

7.3. The thesis must have been presented and assessed at a university or college in the Netherlands.

7.4. The theses must have been completed between 31 August 2024 and 31 August 2026 at a university or college in the Netherlands.

7.5. The theses must have achieved a mark of 8 or higher. Theses written in Dutch or in English are eligible.

7.6. Candidates must declare that they are prepared, in the event of a winning submission, to present a lecture for the benefit of KOG members no later than six months after the presentation of the prize, as well as to contribute a concise summary for the KOG website.

8. Submission method and processing

8.1. Completed theses must be submitted digitally as a PDF with all appendices (see below) no later than midnight on 31 August 2026 to the jury secretary at the e-mail address kogscriptieprijs@hotmail.com. Theses may be written in Dutch or in English.

8.2. The following information must be provided by the submitter:

- Full first and last name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the author
- Title of the thesis and graduation date
- Name of the academic institution and degree programme and names and titles of supervisors.

8.3. The submitted thesis must include the following appendices:

- A copy of the record of the mark achieved by the thesis (e.g. the list of marks for the master's degree diploma).
- A curriculum vitae of the submitter of no more than 2 pages.

8.4. Processing:

- The submitter of a thesis will receive a confirmation of receipt from the KOG and information about the subsequent judging process, the jury and the date and location of the prize presentation.

- Communication about the process will take place digitally.

- For more information, see: https://kog.nu/genootschap/leerstoel/

9. The result

9.1. The jury will base its decision on the awarding of the prize on its deliberations.

9.2. The result will be announced by the jury on the KOG website no later than 31 December 2026.

9.3. There will be no correspondence regarding the results.

10. Final provision

For all situations not covered by these rules and regulations, the power of decision lies with the chair of the jury.

Regulations - April 2026