

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 25 February 2026



UNCTAD-AIB AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Target

The UNCTAD Division of Investment and Enterprise (DIAE) and the Academy of International Business (AIB) have jointly established an Award for the best young academic research work on international investment and development. The Award is intended for PhD students or early career researchers with no more than five years of full-time work experience.

UNCTAD and AIB invite contributions that provide state-of-the-art knowledge and understanding of the activities conducted by, and the development impact of, multinational enterprises and other international investors, considering economic, institutional, social, environmental or cultural aspects. Contributions should draw clear policy conclusions from the research findings.

Reflecting the core value propositions of UNCTAD's research mandate, the winning papers should meet the following criteria:

1. Original and innovative research.
2. Analysis of topical issues, including explicit policy implications and recommendation.
3. Focus on investment and development (i.e., how to ensure that international investment and multinational enterprises contribute to sustainable development). Research areas may include topics shaping the future of investment, such as:
 - Digital transformation
 - Gender and inclusive investment
 - Sustainable and resilient infrastructure
 - Investment in climate change, notably adaptation and mitigation
 - Global value chains and global geopolitical dynamics
 - Other emerging drivers of global development

The paper must not have been previously published. Co-authorship is permitted provided all authors meet the stated target group and criteria. Previous applicants, including past winners, are not eligible to apply.

Submissions must include:

1. Paper not exceeding 12,000 words (inclusive of appendices, references, and all material); authors are encouraged to follow the JIBP formatting guidelines, available at: [JIBP Formatting Guidelines](#).
2. Abstract (not longer than 300 words).
3. Author(s)'s CV.
4. A statement confirming that all authors of the paper are PhD students or early career researchers with no more than five years of full-time work experience.

The submitted papers will be evaluated by a Review Panel that includes senior UNCTAD representatives, subject-matter experts, and the President of AIB, along with other prominent AIB scholars.

The Award, granted on an annual basis, will be presented during an official ceremony (final date to be confirmed) at the AIB 2026 Annual Conference, scheduled from 29 June to 3 July 2025 in Manchester, United Kingdom. Finalists will present their work in a Special Session at the Conference, and the winner will be announced during the Awards Ceremony. Finalists must agree to register for and attend the AIB Conference Awards Ceremony.

In addition, finalists will have the opportunity to showcase their work at the World Investment Forum 2026, to be held in October in Qatar.

Submissions must be sent to:

unctad@aib.world
by 25 February 2026

Award Package

- A certificate will be presented to the winner at the AIB conference in July 2025.
- The Award winner will be invited to collaborate on a joint UNCTAD–AIB research project during a term mutually agreed upon by UNCTAD and the recipient.
- An invitation to submit the paper for publication in AIB's peer-reviewed policy journal, the *Journal of International Business Policy* (subject to the journal's standard peer-review process).

Contacts

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PAST WINNERS

2025 Ebehi Iyoha, Harvard University

Paper: Home-Country Productivity Spillovers from U.S. Multinational Activity

2024 Chau Chu, University of Leeds

Paper: Foreign SMEs and Regional Institutions: A Study of Vietnam

2023 Pascal Simon Mayer, University of Muenster

Paper: Policy Support Schemes and MNE Investment Location Choice

2022 Zarlisht Muhammad Razeq, McGill University

Paper: Deep Trade Integration and North-South Participation in Global Value Chains

2021 Baptiste Souillard, Université Libre de Bruxelles

Paper: The Indirect Effect of Import Competition on Corporate Tax Avoidance

2020 Yamlaksira Getachew, Loyola Marymount University

Paper: Contract Enforcement Institutions and MNE Integration Strategies: Implications for Exit from the Least-Developed Countries