

Dissertation Prizes 2026

The Sections Atoms, Molecules, Quantum Optics and Photonics (SAMOP)*, Condensed Matter (SKM)**, and Matter and Cosmos (SMuK)*** announce dissertation prizes to be awarded at the DPG Spring Meetings 2026. The aim of these awards is to recognise outstanding scientific work and its excellent presentation.

Dissertation Award Selection Process:

Each of the three sections will appoint a jury to identify up to five finalists (per prize) from among the nominees, who will be invited to give a lecture on their work at a dissertation prize symposium at the respective DPG Spring Meeting.

After the symposium, the jury will select the prize winner, who will be presented at the meeting. All finalists receive a travel grant of 500 EUR to the spring conference, the prize money for the winner is 1,500 EUR.

* The Section SAMOP comprises the divisions Atomic Physics, Short Time-scale Physics and Applied Laser Physics, Mass Spectrometry, Molecular Physics, Quantum Information, Quantum Optics and Photonics.

** The Section SKM comprises the divisions Biological Physics, Chemical Physics and Polymer Physics, Thin Films, Dynamics and Statistical Physics, Semiconductor Physics, Crystalline Solids and their Microstructure, Magnetism, Metal and Material Physics, Surface Physics, Physics of Socio-economic Systems, Low Temperatures, Vacuum Science and Technology.

*** The Section SMuK comprises the divisions Extraterrestrial Physics, Gravitation and Relativity, Hadronic and Nuclear Physics, Plasma Physics, Radiation and Medical Physics, Particle Physics, Theoretical and Mathematical Physics.

Dissertation Prize of the Atoms, Molecules, Quantum Optics and Photonics Section (SAMOP)

 Awarded in Mainz 2026

Eligible for nomination:

Young academics whose doctorate was completed between 15 September 2023 and 30 September 2025 as stated by the doctoral / PhD certificate.

Entitled to nomination:

Doctoral / PhD advisors from Germany and abroad who are DPG members.

The complete nomination includes:

- Curriculum vitae
- short presentation (max. two pages), written by the candidate, of the potential of the dissertation – in the scientific context of the work and with regard to his or her future research
- Dissertation as pdf or direct weblink to pdf
- exactly two letters of recommendation: one from the advisor, one from an independent colleague (i.e. neither cooperation nor co-supervision nor co-authorship or other reasons of bias), whereby in particular the original contribution of the nominee to the scientific knowledge gained must be explicitly acknowledged (applies more strongly to cumulative dissertations)
- on the part of the advisor, professional assignment of the nomination to a division of SAMOP
- Copy of the doctoral / PhD certificate

Submission until 15 October 2025

Documents should be sent by the advisor in the above-mentioned compilation in due time with a single PDF document to:

Chair of the SAMOP Section:

Prof. Dr. Gereon Niedner-Schatteburg

E-Mail:

gns@rptu.de

Subject:

SAMOP Dissertation Prize

Dissertation Prize of the Condensed Matter Section (SKM)

 Awarded in Dresden 2026

Eligible for nomination:

Scientifically outstanding dissertations from the respective subject areas, which were completed in the period from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2025 by the successful doctoral defense.

Entitled to nomination:

Advisors from Germany and abroad who are DPG members.

The complete nomination includes:

- the scientific curriculum vitae of the nominee with list of publications
- an outline by the nominee of the potential of the dissertation (in general and also with regard to personal development) (max. 2 pages)
- a laudatio on the reasons for the nomination by the advisor that clearly explains why the nominated dissertation is scientifically outstanding
- an official confirmation of the successful defense, including the grade, and a copy of the dissertation (or the web link to it)

Dissertation Prize of the Matter and Cosmos Section (SMuK)

 Awarded in Erlangen 2026

Eligible for nomination:

Young academics whose doctorate was completed between 15 September 2023 and 30 September 2025 as stated by the doctoral / PhD certificate.

Entitled to nomination:

Advisors from Germany and abroad who are DPG members.

The complete nomination includes:

- Curriculum vitae
- short presentation (max. two pages), written by the candidate, of the potential of the dissertation – in the scientific context of the work and with regard to his or her future research
- Dissertation as pdf or direct weblink to pdf
- exactly two letters of recommendation: one from the advisor, one from an independent colleague (i.e. neither cooperation nor co-supervision nor co-authorship or other reasons of bias), whereby in particular the original contribution of the nominee to the scientific knowledge gained must be explicitly acknowledged (applies more strongly to cumulative dissertations)
- on the part of the advisor, professional assignment of the nomination to a division of SMuK
- Copy of the doctoral / PhD certificate

Submission until 15 October 2025

Documents should be sent by the advisor in the aforementioned compilation in due time with a single PDF document to

Chair of the SKM Section:

Prof. Dr. Sarah Köster

E-Mail:

sarah.koester@uni-goettingen.de

Subject:

SKM Dissertation Prize

Submission until 15 October 2025

We would like to expressly encourage the advisors to nominate more women. The advisor should send the documents in the above-mentioned compilation to

DPG Board Member:

Prof. Dr. Claus Lämmerzahl

E-Mail:

claus.laemmerzahl@zarm.uni-bremen.de

Subject:

SMuK Dissertation Prize