

The prize will be given on the basis of a written paper (minimum 3000 words) and the presentation of a paper by a post-graduate student at the DSA Ireland annual conference. This prize will be to the value of €300 and additionally two faculty members, drawn from the DSA Ireland membership or steering committee, will work with the student to develop the paper for publication/further dissemination. The written papers will be scored on the basis of the following criteria:

Judging criteria¹

Innovation (40)

Originality of contribution with an emphasis on the paper's innovativeness in one or more of the following areas:

- (i) theoretical development;
- (ii) empirical results or;
- (iii) policy development

Argument (30)

Quality of argument incorporating:

- (i) critical analysis of theories and findings; and
- (ii) coherence of argument

Positioning (20)

Clear positioning of paper in existing international literature with a strong conclusion(s). The findings of the paper should be significant or have the potential for significant impact.

Writing Style (10)

Writing style will be judged for accuracy, clarity, readability. The structure and organisation of the paper will also be judged.

The student paper with the highest overall score from the two evaluators will be awarded the prize. In the case of a tie the prize will be jointly awarded and the prize money split evenly between the two recipients and two mentors will work on each of the papers with the students.

General Terms and Conditions

Eligibility

- The award is open to all post-graduates who submit a paper to the DSA Ireland conference regardless of their country of origin or their position within the DSA Ireland organization;
- At least one author of a paper must be a post-graduate. A post-graduate may submit co-authored papers where the co-authors do not hold a PhD nor have they already published in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Specifically, co-authored papers with faculty members are not eligible for consideration;
- A written paper (minimum 3,000 words) must be submitted at least a week in advance of the oral presentation;

¹ Based on: <http://www4.fe.uc.pt/infercoimbra/doc/Joint%20Research%20Prize%20Criteria.pdf>

DSA Ireland Best Student Paper Award

- Submitting a paper to the DSA Ireland Best Student Paper Award competition, does not preclude its consideration for other prizes at the conference, such as the Robert Chambers Award.

Award

- The judges' decision is final;
- Authors should not contact with judges with respect to the paper before the prize is awarded. If influence is exerted, the paper will be deemed ineligible for the award.

Judging panel

- Post-graduate members of the DSA Ireland organisation are not eligible to serve on the judging panel of the DSA Ireland Best Student Paper Award competition.