



# PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Specialized Organization of the Organization of American States

## Prize for the Outstanding Master's Thesis in Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information

### 2015 Edition

The goal of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) through its Cartography Commission offering this Prize is to promote and recognize the academic and scientific recent works performed by Member States citizens of as well as students graduated from accredited programs located at any of the Member States. This award will be granted in the general subject of Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information, including any aspects of scientific study such as geospatial information capture, manipulation, presentation and/or dissemination.

#### 1. Merits

PAIGH will issue a prize, and up to three mentions, to students or researchers who demonstrate excellence in these fields in his/her investigation and/or academic contribution.

#### 2. About the candidate

- The candidate holding the degree should be either a citizen of any Member State of PAIGH or a former student of an accredited Master's program located in any Member State of PAIGH.
- The Master's degree should have been awarded after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010
- A thesis for the completion of said degree should have been written on the subjects of Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information, including any aspects of scientific study such as geospatial information capture, manipulation, presentation and/or dissemination.
- He/she should submit all the required documents required to any of the National Sections of PAIGH before the deadline stipulated in the present call.

#### 3. About the Jury

The Jury will have an odd number of members, with at least five full members representing a minimum of three Member States. They will be nominated by the

President of the Cartography Commission and confirmed with the mutual agreement of both the PAIGH President and the Secretary General. They should be leading researchers specialized in any of the topics of the call. In addition, there will be two ex-officio members of the Jury: the General Secretary of PAIGH with a seat and a vote as well as the President of the Cartography Commission with a seat but without a vote. Likewise there will be at least three alternate members from three Member States which have not yet been represented in the Jury. If it is deemed convenient the Jury might consult with the non-binding opinion of other high profile specialists, from anywhere in the world.

The list of confirmed and alternate members of the Jury will be published once the call is closed. The operation of the Jury will be supported by the Technical Secretary of the Cartography Commission. The Jury will have a maximum of 90 calendar days to render final decisions. Deliberations will be held strictly confidential.

#### **4. Evaluation procedure**

To apply, the candidates must provide a single digital manuscript in the format of a full scientific article that will be evaluated for its contents as well as for its contribution to the knowledge in the corresponding area. See below for more specific guidelines.

Regarding contents, particular attention will be paid to:

- Clear and concise description of the research problem considered
- State of the art review
- Methodology
- Data and information sources
- Results
- Conclusions and implications to the present or future of the area

With respect to the contributions to knowledge the following will be considered:

- Relevance and degree of creativity/innovation in the scientific-academic areas
- Clarity in the methodology, statistical validity of the analysis performed
- Logical organization of the arguments and conclusions
- Potential usefulness of results and / or products obtained for the discipline or society

#### **5. About the prize**

A certificate of recognition will be issued to the author of the awarded thesis as well as to the advisor or advisors. A formal letter will be sent to the appropriate University mentioning the designation of this award. The award will be made by the President of PAIGH or Secretary General at the next PAIGH Board meeting, or failing that, by the President of the corresponding PAIGH National Section in a special ceremony to be organized for this purpose. The Secretary General will also recognize the participation of jurors with a formal letter of appreciation.

The Award Committee may decline to make an award in any given year for any reason and at any time during the process.

## **6. Verdict of the Jury**

The Verdict of the Jury which deliberated in this announcement shall contain a rationale for the award of the prize. This Verdict shall be delivered to the President of the Cartography Commission who shall transmit to the Secretary General for final resolution at the next PAIGH Authorities Meeting.

## **7. General Provisions**

If there is any case not provided for in these rules, the PAIGH President, Secretary General and Cartography Commission's President are empowered to make joint final decisions that are necessary.

Those wishing to apply for the award must submit an online application with the documentation required between May 1 through 29, 2015 in one of the PAIGH's National Sections. The National Section will refer to the PAIGH Secretariat before June 15.

Every interested candidate may appear with the same work in at most two calls. Presentations outside the stipulated deadline or incomplete delivery of the required documentation will not be accepted under any circumstances. Submission to this competition implies acceptance of these rules, selected members of the jury and the final decision taken, without the possibility to appeal.

## **8. Transitory provisions**

The 2015 edition of the prize, performed for the first time, will include Master's theses defended between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2014.

## **9. Required documentation**

The applicants should submit their application to any PAIGH's National Section, and exclusively by electronic means, with a letter including:

- Full name of the applicant
- Country of residence
- E-mail
- Full thesis title
- Up to ten keywords which will help in defining the thematic area of the thesis
- Advisor (or advisors) name with their respective e-mail addresses
- Organization and/or University where the thesis has been presented, including the full university address
- Full name and e-mail of the individual in charge of the academic program
- Nomination arguments

The applicant shall submit a summary, in any of the official languages of PAIGH: Spanish, English, French or Portuguese, in the form of a scientific paper of no more than 15 pages (in the format [specified here](#)) where the subject under analysis is detailed, the literature on the subject is outlined, a full description of the work performed is provided and conclusions are established. It is crucial that the importance of the work and contributions in the development of knowledge or methodology are highlighted. This nomination document will be the main consideration for the candidate evaluation, although the full thesis is also required. The nomination document will be published in the official journals of the Cartography Commission, the website of the same or other means deemed appropriate. An expressed release of publication rights in the format [specified here](#) will be required.

- An electronic copy of the thesis which will operate as an aid during the evaluation process. It will be kept confidential if it is specifically requested.
- Copy of an official document of the organization or university clearly indicating the approval date of the thesis or the granting of the title, which will be used for the purposes of this regulation.
- Updated Curriculum Vitae of the candidate, of no more than 5 pages in the format [specified here](#).

Prior to submission to the Jury, the Technical Secretary of the Cartography Commission will verify compliance with the formal elements of the documentation submitted. Submissions that are not eligible or incomplete will not be forwarded to the Jury.

The deadline for submitting all the required documents in any of the PAIGH's National Sections is Friday 29 May 2015 at midnight Mexico City time.

The contact details for each of the National Sections are in the following link: <https://www.ipgh.org/directorio/default.html>. The online form to be used will be available soon at <http://comisiones.ipgh.org/CARTOGRAFIA/Premio.html>

For more information please contact us at:

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