



Jaap Doek Children's Rights Thesis Award

Regulations 2024

1. Purpose

The Jaap Doek Children's Rights Thesis Award is an annual award for the best thesis in the field of Children's Rights granted by Defence for Children Netherlands and the Department of Child Law and Health Law of Leiden Law School.

The aim of the annual award is:

- a. To stimulate research in the field of Children's Rights (national and international) at universities (and among students) in the Netherlands;
- b. To encourage students to write a high-quality scientific thesis in the field of Children's Rights and to reward them for this.

2. Conditions of participation

- a. Participation is open to (former) students of a scientific Master's Degree program in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Surinam and Flanders.
- b. Only master's theses that were graded with an 8 (eight) or more in the preceding academic year (1 September until 31 August of the next year) will be reviewed (for the 2024 award this period is 1 September 2023 until 31 August 2024).
- c. Participants are expected to have taken note of this regulation and to agree with the terms of this regulation.

3. Requirements and submission master thesis

The master thesis:

- a. is written in Dutch or English;
- b. clearly concerns Children's Rights;
- c. has in principle a maximum of 80 pages;
- d. must be submitted in digital format (including all supplements) to the secretary of the Child Law and Health Law Department of the University of Leiden (jeugdrecht@law.leidenuniv.nl). The secretariat will send a confirmation once the submission has been received;

- e. will be submitted with the following details:
- name, address, telephone number, mail address and date of birth of the participant;
 - name of the master's degree program, title master thesis, number of ECTS and date of graduation;
 - official grading list that confirms that the master thesis has been approved;
 - names, titles and mail address of the thesis supervisor(s);
 - letter of recommendation by the supervisor with a motivation why the thesis is eligible for the Jaap Doek Children's Rights Thesis Award;
- f. should be submitted before 12 am on 10 October of the year immediately following the academic year referred to under 2b of this regulation.

4. Assessment criteria

Entries will be reviewed by the jury on scientific quality and originality.

5. Jury

- a. The jury consists of experts with special merits in the field of Children's Rights with at least one professor:
- **Jaap Doek** (chairman), emeritus professor of Children's Rights (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam);
 - **Ton Liefwaard**, UNICEF professor of Children's Rights (Leiden University);
 - **Sharon Detrick**, senior legal adviser, PhD (Defence for Children Netherlands);
 - **Karin Arts**, professor of International law and development (ISS The Hague, part of Erasmus University Rotterdam);
 - **Johan Put**, Professor of Law and Criminological Sciences (Catholic University of Leuven).
- b. One of the jury members can be replaced by a reserve jury member, when he/she:
- is the thesis supervisor of a participant;
 - is a blood relative of or closely related to a participant;
 - due to circumstances is not in a position to act as jury member.
- c. The jury will announce a shortlist with the nominated theses after submission.
- d. When the jury is unanimously of the opinion that none of the submissions for the award should receive the award, the award will not be granted.

6. Award and graduation

- a. The Jaap Doek Children's Rights Thesis Award is rewarded with an organized trip to Geneva (note: only if the conditions allow this trip to take place) and prize money of Eur 500, free to spend.
- b. The trip to Geneva includes to attend a session of the UN Committee on the rights of the child, and to visit some international organizations which are located in Geneva. This part of the award is offered by Defence for Children (note: only if the conditions, in general allow this trip to take place).
- c. The graduation is yearly around the 6th of December (for the first time in 2013); the exact day, time and place will be further defined per year.

7. Final Provision

In all cases within this regulation does not provide for, the chairman of the jury will decide.