



ACCADEMIA ITALIANA DI ECONOMIA AZIENDALE

FONDATA NEL 1813

AIDEA Research Awards for Innovative Doctoral Thesis Project Ideas

Edition 2026 (6th edition)

In line with AIDEA's mission—to promote initiatives aimed at advancing and disseminating knowledge in management and business administration among institutions, enterprises, and the wider community, including activities supporting the education, research, and teaching of young scholars—the AIDEA PhD Research Awards are intended to provide financial support to doctoral students engaged in the research and writing phases of their dissertations.

The grants specifically aim to support scholars conducting original research that addresses key challenges related to innovation and sustainability, as well as integration and skills development, which are increasingly relevant in both academic and business contexts.

Through these awards AIDEA seeks to foster interaction between doctoral students and the business world in order to stimulate innovation by:

- i) encouraging cross-fertilization between different yet interconnected domains;
- ii) promoting synergies and collaborations for the development of new ideas and management models;
- iii) enhancing and assessing research outcomes through their transfer to productive and social sectors.

Funding may be used for international research stays, fieldwork in companies and technology transfer activities, the purchase of research materials (software, databases, etc.), and participation in academic conferences, including as presenters.

Research areas

Eligible research areas include topics related to business administration and managerial innovation aligned with major global megatrends, with particular emphasis on sustainability (environmental, social, and governance dimensions), digital transformation of business models, strategic artificial intelligence and big data management, industrial processes, ageing and silver economy, etc.

Special consideration will be given to projects employing innovative and interdisciplinary methodologies, as well as those demonstrating the potential for technological transferability across different contexts and sectors.



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Timeline

- Application deadline: **15 September 2026, 24:00 CEST**
- Award ceremony: To be announced
- Funding period: **30 November 2026 – 30 November 2027**

Number and value of Awards

Six awards of €4,000 each will be granted

Eligible Expenses

The award may be used to reimburse costs related to:

- purchase of databases
- research visits abroad
- participation in international conferences (as presenter or speaker)
- remuneration of research assistants for data collection and analysis
- implementation of field projects in companies
- other activities supporting the doctoral research project

Eligibility

Applicants must be doctoral candidates enrolled in:

- the **40th cycle (XL) for three-year PhD programs**
- the **39th (XXXIX) or 40th (XL) cycle for four-year PhD programs**

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following three documents:

AIDEA – Piazza De' Calderini, 2/2 – 40124 Bologna – Tel. 051 558798
segreteria@accademiaaidea.it – www.accademiaaidea.it
C.F. 00698690377



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1. Research project, including: research objective and Scientific Disciplinary Sector (SSD), research question, identified research gap and contribution/innovative value, methodology, expected results, reference bibliography, budget plan and timeline¹. Maximum length: 8 pages (20,000 characters including spaces). **The document must be anonymized.**
2. Self-certification confirming completion of first- or second-year PhD activities (as applicable).
3. Supervisor's certification confirming approval of the thesis topic and its consistency with the scientific areas of AIDEA and with the Scientific Societies affiliated with it.

Evaluation Process

Applications will be evaluated by a five-member committee appointed by the AIDEA Board.

The evaluation will focus on scientific quality, included originality, interdisciplinarity, potential impact on academic knowledge and business practice, and alignment with the research areas outlined in the call.

The committee will also assess the feasibility of the project within the one-year funding period and the appropriateness of the proposed budget.

Following the evaluation, the committee will submit its recommendations to the AIDEA Board of Directors for final approval.

Disbursement of Funds

Funds will be disbursed as reimbursement for expenses incurred during the funding period (30 November 2026 – 30 November 2027). Awardees must submit appropriate documentation to the AIDEA Secretariat to claim reimbursement.

For further information: segreteria@accademiaaidea.it

¹ For example, some detailed expense items may include: accommodation, meals, transportation, purchase of licenses, acquisition of databases, registration for conferences or schools, etc."