



# 2026 Biennial Award for an OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS ON LITERACY

The *Literacy Association of Ireland* invites graduate students from *Education, Special Education, Psychology* and *related disciplines* to apply for LAI's 11<sup>th</sup> biennial award for an outstanding Master's thesis. This award is open to those who have submitted **or** who plan to submit a Master's thesis in the area of literacy between: **1<sup>st</sup> September, 2024 and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2026.**

Applications may include: Master's by Research only **or** Master's with minor thesis (12,000 words minimum to 20,000 words maximum). The research must have been conducted in Ireland (Republic/N.I). *Fáiltítear roimh iarratais trí Ghaeilge.*

The winner will make a short presentation (15-20 mins) of their research at the Literacy Association of Ireland Annual Conference to be held on **November 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup>, 2026** at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

The winner will be notified by **October 16<sup>th</sup>** and must confirm their availability to present at the annual conference shortly thereafter.

If two or more theses are deemed by the judges to be of equal quality, the award may be shared.

The winner(s) will be presented with the award(s) of **€500** and the **LAI plaque** during the conference.

**Applicants must be current members of LAI.**

## Evaluation Criteria

Thesis summaries will be evaluated by an independent external panel convened by the Literacy Association of Ireland according to criteria which will include:

- Relevance and significance of the research question(s);
- Quality of theoretical/conceptual rationale;
- Appropriateness of research design;
- Significance of the research findings/contribution to the field;
- Clarity of writing and organisation of summary
- Breadth of references.

## How to Submit

Applicants must submit the following **by September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026** <https://forms.gle/q1vmt5pQmD4JqLTU7>

*Note that you will need to be logged into a Gmail account to submit using the form.*

- Author's name, contact details and thesis title
- Attach two PDF copies of a 2,000-word summary** of the thesis. One of the PDFs must be blinded (PDF should not include any identifying details: e.g. your name/supervisor/institution; ensure the title of the thesis summary is on the first page). The second PDF should include title, author name and academic institution.
- Attach a note from the Supervisor** of the thesis supporting the submission

[www.literacyireland.com/thesis-award](http://www.literacyireland.com/thesis-award)

Thesis Award Queries | ✉ [membership@literacyireland.com](mailto:membership@literacyireland.com)

General queries | ✉ [info@literacyireland.com](mailto:info@literacyireland.com)