



Charles Haenny prize for physics

The prize is to be awarded once every two years to a young physicist for research performed in Switzerland in any field of physics. The nominated work should be of excellent scientific quality and internationally competitive, while also respectful of humanity and its environment. In the spirit of Prof. Charles Haenny's will, the prize aims to distinguish research based on an ethic of international collaboration or seeking to inhibit the use of physical knowledge for malicious goals.

The prize consists of an award of CHF 5'000 to be presented during a dedicated award ceremony.

Eligibility:

- Maximum 8 years after obtaining PhD: defined as the time between the (oral) defence or the official acceptance of the first PhD thesis and the application deadline. The window of eligibility may be extended for valid and proven breaks in academic activity (to be specified in the application).
- Research in any domain of physics conducted while affiliated at a Swiss institution. The work does not need to be performed in a physics department but needs to involve a strong physics component.
- Restrictions: In accordance with the will of Prof. Charles Haenny, any research related to the extension of nuclear power plants or the use of nuclear energy for military goals is explicitly excluded.
- Self-nominations are accepted.

The award committee is aiming at a diverse pool of candidates and encourages women and members of other under-represented groups to apply.

Requested submission documents:

- Maximum two-page description of research with a specific focus on the selection criteria mentioned in the prize description, including reference to relevant publications
- Curriculum vitae with date of PhD clearly indicated
- Support letter stressing relevant achievements. This can be from any stakeholder and not necessarily the direct supervisor
- Fully filled out nomination form







Selection criteria:

- Scientific quality and originality
- Importance to benefit of humanity and its environment
- Importance of international collaboration and benefit to Switzerland and its place in the international community.

Composition of selection committee:

- Chair
- 3 researchers from relevant fields
- Person with strong link to society (philosopher, NGO or UN worker, journalist, ...)

The committee chair is nominated by the IPHYS direction for a duration of at least three prize rounds. For each prize edition, the jury is proposed by the committee chair and confirmed by the Assembly of Professors of IPHYS. Of the 5 committee members, at least two should be female or not identify as male.

Version October 2024

