



# WAIFC YOUNG ACADEMIC AWARD 2022

***Submission Handbook***

**Abstract**

*The inaugural Young Academic Award hosted by The World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC) inviting young academics to submit papers or essays on the future of a sustainable and inclusive financial sector.*

<https://award.waifc.finance>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

*The financial sector continues to undergo rapid evolution with new technologies enabling the digitization of money, innovative trends involving artificial intelligence and DLT, and a greater focus on financing SMEs and financial inclusion. We see a long-term transition toward a sustainable financial industry, while in the short-term there is a need to support the economic recovery from the pandemic.*



*Jennifer Reynolds, Chair WAIFC Board of Directors*

The World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC) is a non-profit association representing 21 leading international financial centers. Our members work with financial institutions, government, academia, and other stakeholders to drive the growth and competitiveness of the financial sector. WAIFC facilitates cooperation between our members, exchanging best practices and communication with the general public. Together we collaborate on accelerating sustainable economic growth and innovation in the delivery of global financial services.

The best ideas on how to realize a sustainable financial industry will not come from our members alone. We actively seek new insights and fresh perspectives from the next generation of researchers and thought leaders.

I am therefore delighted to announce the inaugural WAIFC Young Academic Award in 2022. We invite young academics to submit papers or essays addressing one of the following topics:

- 1) The future of finance, or what will financial centers look like in 2030
- 2) How the financial sector can contribute to a sustainable economic recovery from the current pandemic
- 3) Innovations in sustainable finance and their impact on the financial industry
- 4) How financial centers can promote inclusive finance
- 5) New ways of successfully financing small and medium-sized enterprises

We will also consider papers on topics not mentioned above, but relevant to the work of international financial centers.

The top three finalists will have the unique opportunity to present their research at WAIFC's Annual General Meeting to be held in Casablanca, Morocco in October 2022.

Applications to submit your paper or essay may be made no later than 15 May 2022, while your final paper or essay must be submitted no later than 15 June 2022.

Full details on who can enter, how to enter, assessment criteria, etc. are detailed within this handbook. If you have any further questions, please email [award@waifc.finance](mailto:award@waifc.finance).

I look forward to receiving your submissions, and hopefully meeting you in Casablanca later this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Reynolds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jennifer Reynolds  
Chair, WAIFC Board of Directors

## 2. SUBMISSIONS – HOW TO ENTER

We invite young academics to submit papers or essays addressing one of the following topics:

- 1) The future of finance, or what will financial centers look like in 2030
- 2) How the financial sector can contribute to a sustainable economic recovery from the current pandemic
- 3) Innovations in sustainable finance and their impact on the financial industry
- 4) How financial centers can promote inclusive finance
- 5) New ways of successfully financing small and medium-sized enterprises

We will also consider papers on topics not mentioned above, but relevant to the work of international financial centers.

### General Submission Criteria, Author Acknowledgement & Permissions

- Papers / essays should be previously unpublished, or if published not earlier than 2021
- Multiple authors can contribute to a paper or essay, but at least one author must be under the age of 35 as of 15 June 2022
- Applicants consent to the processing of personal data in compliance with EU GDPR
- Shortlisted applicants agree to provide bios and photos
- Shortlisted applicants grant permission to WAIFC and its members to publish author information with paper or essay details as part of the Award social media campaign
- Shortlisted applicants grant permission to WAIFC and its members to publish (electronically) paper or essay with full attribution to the author(s)

### Application for Submission

- Applications for submission must be made no later than 15 May 2022
- Applications must be made by completing our [submission form](#) \*
- Applications must include an abstract of between 200 and 500 words and include a table of contents of the full paper or essay
- Applications must be in the English language

***\* If you are unable to access the submission form, please email [award@waifc.finance](mailto:award@waifc.finance).***

### Submission of Paper or Essay

- Full paper or essay must be submitted no later than 15 June 2022
- Submissions can be sent to us by email: [award@waifc.finance](mailto:award@waifc.finance)
- Submissions must be between 5 and 25 pages (without bibliography)
- Submissions must be written in or translated to the English language
- Submissions must be in pdf format

### 3. WHO CAN ENTER?

We invite young academics from around the world to make a submission. WAIFC is a global organization, and we aim to make this a global competition. The Award is open to all countries, including non-WAIFC member countries.

As our focus is on finance, we particularly encourage submissions from Ph.D. students in finance, economics, mathematics, computer science, or other similar fields to participate. We are, however, seeking new ideas, so a background in any field of study is welcome as long as your paper or essay relates to finance and meets our submission criteria. Submissions are welcome from those in universities, research institutes, think tanks and other similar institutions.

Multiple authors can contribute to a paper or essay, but as we are seeking ideas from bright young minds, at least one author must be under the age of 35 as of 15 June 2022.

Authors currently employed by, or collaborating with, the WAIFC or any of its members or observers (refer to list at the end of this handbook) are not eligible to participate.

### 4. THE JURY & SELECTION CRITERIA

A jury will conduct a detailed evaluation of submissions. The jury will be made up of a subset of WAIFC Board Members and will be led by the WAIFC Chair. To ensure impartiality and fairness, Jury members will not be permitted to vote on submissions from their own country.

Submissions will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Novelty
- Topicality
- Innovative thinking
- Scientific merit
- Relevance for financial centers
- Practical applicability

The jury will decide on the top three finalists. Feedback on submissions will only be provided to the three finalists during their presentations in October. No other feedback or ratings will be provided to submitters. The decision of the jury is final.

All submitters will be notified as to whether or not they have made it through to the top three. Upon notification that you are one of the three finalists, details of WAIFC's Annual General Meeting in October will be confirmed.

## 5. DEADLINES & DATES

The website will be open for submissions from February through 15 June 2022. Judging of all submissions will take place from 16 June to 31 July 2022. All submitters will be notified as to whether or not they are a finalist in August.

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|--|---|
| • 15 May 2022                          | Deadline for applications for submission                |
| • 15 June 2022                         | Deadline for submission of full paper or essay          |
| • 31 July 2022                         | Jury completes judging / assessing submissions          |
| • 12 August 2022                       | Submitters notified if they are a finalist or not       |
| • 9 September 2022                     | Finalist's logistics to present in Casablanca confirmed |
| • 2 <sup>nd</sup> half of October 2022 | Presentations at WAIFC AGM in Casablanca                |

***The date of the AGM in October will be confirmed in due course.***

## 6. THE AWARDS

Our inaugural Young Academic Award will take place at WAIFC's Annual General Meeting in Casablanca, Morocco in October 2022 (date to be confirmed).

The three finalists will be invited to present their paper or essay at the Annual General Meeting to the WAIFC Board of Directors and other invited observers and guests. The awards will be presented to the winners by members of the Board of Directors.

A prize will be awarded to each of the top three finalists as follows:

- EUR €3,000 – 1<sup>st</sup> place
- EUR €2,000 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- EUR €1,000 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

For the three finalists WAIFC will cover the cost of economy flights to Casablanca and hotel accommodation for two nights at a hotel chosen by WAIFC in Casablanca. Logistics for the travel will be coordinated with the finalists late August / early September 2022.

***Please note: Only one author per submission will have their travel and accommodation expenses covered by WAIFC. If there are multiple authors to a paper or essay, it is up to the authors to decide who will present.***

To celebrate the winner and two runners-up, all three will be promoted on the WAIFC website. The winner will also be interviewed for WAIFC's monthly newsletter.

## 7. TERMS & CONDITIONS

By submitting an application and a paper or essay, you agree to the following:

- WAIFC may share submitted material with its members, Award Jury, staff, and partners involved in the award process
- Applicants consent to the processing of personal data in compliance with EU GDPR
- Shortlisted applicants agree to provide bios and photos
- Shortlisted applicants grant permission to WAIFC and its members to publish author information with paper or essay details as part of the Award social media campaign
- Shortlisted applicants grant permission to WAIFC and its members to publish (electronically) paper or essay with full attribution to the author(s)
- If selected as a finalist to be able to travel to Casablanca to present your work in October 2022
- The decision of the Jury in selecting the three finalists is deemed to be final



## APPENDIX – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC) is a non-profit association registered in Belgium, representing 21 leading international financial centers across four continents. WAIFC members are governments agencies, associations and similar institutions developing and promoting their financial centers. WAIFC facilitates cooperation between its members, exchanging best practices and communication with the general public.

For more details, please visit <https://waifc.finance>.

For questions relating to our Young Academic Award, please email [award@waifc.finance](mailto:award@waifc.finance).

### WAIFC Members:

- Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM)
- Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)
- Belgian Finance Center (BFC)
- Busan Finance Center (BFC)
- Casablanca Finance City (CFC)
- Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)
- FinCity.Tokyo
- Frankfurt Main Finance (FMF)
- Hong Kong Financial Services Development Council (FSDC)
- Luxembourg for Finance (LFF)
- Moscow International Financial Center (MIFC)
- Paris EUROPLACE
- Rwanda Finance
- Stichting Capital Amsterdam
- Stuttgart Financial
- The Capital Market Authority of Oman (CMA)
- The Economic Development Board Mauritius (EDB)
- The Italian Banking, Insurance and Finance Federation (FeBAF)
- The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)
- TheCityUK
- Toronto Finance International (TFI)

### WAIFC Observers:

- City of Boston
- Connecticut Hedge Fund Association
- Cámara de Comercio de Bogotá
- FinanceMalta
- Jersey Finance

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