

Call for Applications: The Beagle Award 2026

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to announce the opening of registrations for The Beagle Award 2026, that recognizes the scientific and social merits of early-career scientists. Inspired by Charles Darwin's voyage on the HMS Beagle, this award aims to support young researchers at the beginning of their careers, acknowledging their exceptional scientific work and social commitments.

The Beagle Award is annually conferred by the PhD Student Board and sponsored by Gemeinschaft zur Förderung der Kulturpflanzenforschung Gatersleben e.V.

Eligibility

PhD students who have completed their work at IPK and submitted their thesis at latest by the time of application but no earlier than within the past two years (July/2024).

Submission Deadline

August 20th, 2026

Prize Value

1,500 €

Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Scientific Excellence (33.3%): Quality of scientific work, including publications, conference presentations (talks and posters), successful PhD performance, individual initiatives, and collaborations.
- 2) Extracurricular Training (16.6%): Workshops, trainings, schools, or other formative experiences to learn skills and increase abilities, both within (*e.g.* methods and procedures) and outside the primary field of research (*e.g.* leadership, science communication, time/project management).
- 3) Social Commitment (33.3%): Demonstrated voluntary social commitments within the scientific community (*e.g.* within IPK) and personal life (*e.g.* outside of IPK), such as integrating or organizing social networks, providing support to friends and colleagues, and engaging in collaborative efforts.
- 4) Application Strength (16.6%): Overall structure, layout, style, and orthography of the application.

Application Requirements

Please submit a complete application (one PDF file) in English, including the following:

- Letter of Motivation (maximum two pages) including:
 - Introduction to the jury, showcasing your personal and scientific development.
 - Explain why you believe you deserve the Beagle Award.
 - Optionally, highlight any setbacks, challenging situations that have motivated your journey as a young scientist.
- *Curriculum vitae*, detailing relevant experiences that align with the Beagle Award criteria.
- List of publications, posters, and conference talks during your PhD, including:
 - Author names, titles, journals, publishing dates, and DOIs.
 - For co-authored papers, provide a brief description of your contribution.
 - Path through the IPK graduate school, including talks and workshops attended and presented.
- Recommendation letter from a supervisor (group leader, mentor) confirming your scientific and social dedication in the style of an employment reference (half-page maximum).
- Overview of your social activities and responsibilities at IPK (e.g. PhD Board, Open Doors Day, Plant Science Student Conference) and organization of social events (e.g. IPK Club, sports, language groups, trips) as well as outside of the IPK (e.g. caregiving, clubs or associations, teaching activities)
- Education within and outside of the IPK Graduate Program (e.g. workshops, trainings, summer schools, symposia)
- Overview of your special responsibilities in the lab, including supervision of students, guest researchers, apprentices, or/and any technical or security-related lab duties.

Additional Information (if applicable)

- Awards received
- Registered patents

To apply, please direct your complete application in a single PDF file to the email address of the PhD Student Board at students@ipk-gatersleben.de until August 20th, 2026. Should you have any questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us using the same email address. We look forward to receiving your exceptional applications for The Beagle Award 2026.

Sincerely yours,

The PhD Student Board