



OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET
(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)

GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Regulation
governing the 'OHIM Annual Prize' for the best dissertation in the field of
Community Trade Marks and Designs

Article 1
The OHIM Annual Prize

The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs), hereinafter referred to as the 'OHIM' or the 'Office'¹, shall award a prize every year for the best dissertation in the field of Community Trade Marks and Designs, at its official Seat in Alicante (Spain).

The prize, which is organised and financed by the OHIM, awards the sum of EUR 2 500 to the authors of the winning dissertations and one five-month paid traineeship at the OHIM to the first two prize winners.

Trainees receive a monthly grant of EUR 800 in accordance with Decision ADM-02-07-REV(2) on traineeships offered by the OHIM.

Article 2
Aims of the OHIM Annual Prize

The OHIM Annual Prize has three specific aims:

- to promote and foster a better understanding at University level of Community trade mark and design protection;
- to promote and reinforce links with European centres and institutions involved in training and research in the field of industrial property;
- to encourage students to acquire professional expertise in the field of Community trade marks and designs.

¹ See website: www.oami.eu.int

Article 3 *Competition admission criteria*

The competition is open to graduates who fulfill the following criteria:

1. have studied a post-graduate course in one of the Member States of the European Union, which includes training in the field of Community industrial property;
2. have studied a post-graduate course as evidenced by a degree certificate, and have completed, as part of this course and during the two years preceding the date of publication of the application form, a dissertation in the field of Community trade marks and designs, under the guidance of a supervisor;
3. have a very good knowledge of one of the official languages of the European Communities and a satisfactory knowledge of another (this must be one of the five languages of the OHIM: Spanish, German, English, French or Italian).

Article 4 *Application form*

The following supporting documents must be enclosed with the application form:

1. a CV;
2. a copy of the applicant's university undergraduate degree certificate or equivalent;
3. a copy of the applicant's post-graduate degree certificate or diploma;
4. three copies of the dissertation;
5. the assessment form, drawn up by the OHIM attached to the application form and duly completed by the supervisor;
6. the solemn declaration signed by the student and attached to the application form.

Candidates who are not yet in possession of their post-graduate degree certificates may submit a certified letter from the University or Institute where they have studied at post-graduate level to prove that they have successfully completed the course.

Article 5 *The dissertation*

The dissertation must be an in-depth analysis of a subject related to Community trade marks and designs.

It must be a minimum of 40 pages and a maximum of 70 pages (approximately 30 lines per page, font size 12, excluding footnotes). It must be written in one of the five languages of the OHIM and printed on one side of the page only, in A4 format.

However, in order to facilitate the work of the Jury, all dissertations not written in English must be submitted with an English translation. Dissertations should not include any annex or other document, such as slides, audio-visual material etc.

The dissertation must not under any circumstances be drawn up from the student's previous work or studies and the first page of which must contain the following "[Solemn declaration](#)" (Annex 2 of the Application form):

'I solemnly declare that the present dissertation has been written by myself and without any external help not explicitly authorised. I solemnly declare that the ideas, paragraphs and other extracts taken from or inspired by external works and the bibliographical references used have been cited accordingly.'

The dissertation must be submitted together with the assessment sheet completed by the supervisor in accordance with the provisions of the assessment sheet drawn up by the OHIM (Annex 1 of the Application form).

A maximum of two dissertations may be submitted for each specialised postgraduate course. Any application received by the Office which exceeds the limit of two dissertations per specialised postgraduate course will be sent back to the University in question, so that over the 15 day period which follows reception of the documents, the University can re-send the two selected dissertations. The candidates concerned will be informed by post.

The deadline for submission of applications is 15 October every year. Any dissertation which arrives at the Office after this date, as evidenced by the postmark, will be considered inadmissible for that year's annual prize.

Article 6 *Composition of the Jury*

The Jury will be comprised of OHIM and/or external experts appointed by the Office.

The Jury is assisted by a Secretariat comprised of the person in charge of the Annual Prize and a person from his/her team. He/she is responsible for coordination and logistics.

The Jury shall make decisions collectively with total independence and in compliance with the provisions of this regulation.

The Jury's decisions are final and shall remain confidential. However, in exceptional circumstances a second decision is possible at the request of the President of the Jury, in order to rectify a clerical error, or if essential elements likely to change the decision were not brought to the Jury's attention at the time of the first decision.

Article 7

Assessment of the dissertation

In its assessment, the Jury will take due account of the assessment sheet completed by the supervisor on the basis of the assessment sheet drawn up by the OHIM (*Annex 1 of the Application form*). The Jury's assessment shall be made on the basis of a similar assessment sheet provided by the OHIM, structured as follows:

a) Presentation

Written presentation

Writing style

Structure

Spelling – punctuation

Observation of academic conventions (footnotes, citations, bibliographical references)

b) Content

Relevance and coherence - comprehension - methodology

Critical approach

Use of reference literature

c) Assessment of the dissertation with a view to possible publication

d) Overall assessment

The overall assessment consists of written comments as well as the mark awarded, on a scale of 11 to 20.

- A mark graded between **11 and 12** represents, on the whole, a satisfactory overall result.
- A mark graded between **13 and 14** represents, on the whole, a good overall result.
- A mark graded between **15 and 16** represents, on the whole, a very good overall result.
- A mark graded between **17 and 18** represents, on the whole, an excellent overall result.
- A mark graded between **19 and 20** represents, on the whole, an outstanding result.
- A mark of 20/20 represents an exceptionally outstanding achievement. The title '*Summa Cum laude*' is given to the work which both the University rapporteur and the Jury unanimously consider to be exceptionally outstanding.

Dissertations with a high-quality writing style are awarded the 'Worthy of Publication' title.

Article 8 *Selection of the dissertations*

The selection process shall be divided into three distinct stages:

First stage: Reception and study of the dissertations received at the Office, in accordance with Article 3, 4 and 5. Candidates submitting incomplete applications shall be notified by post and may submit the missing documents over the 15 day period following reception of notification.

Second stage: Selection and assessment of the 10 best dissertations.

The Jury takes into account the comments submitted by the supervisor in its assessment, and ensures in particular that:

- the candidate has shown evidence of scientific methodology and knowledge of the main bibliographical references on the subject of his/her dissertation;
- the dissertation makes a valuable contribution to advancing knowledge in the subject and is the result of in-depth research;
- the dissertation is the fruit of original thought and has been written exclusively for the purpose of obtaining the qualification in the specialised course.

Third stage: Meeting of the Jury to establish, in hierarchical order, the winning dissertations.

Following the decision, the President and the members of the Jury present sign and date the winning dissertations.

Article 9 *Timetable*

The OHIM Annual Prize for the best dissertation in the field of Community Trade Marks and Designs will commence as of the 2007/2008 academic year. The timetable for the Annual Prize programme is as follows:

15 March every year

- Publication of the present Regulation.
- Publication of the application form.
- Publication of the model assessment sheet.

15 October every year

The deadline for submission of application forms is 15 October each year.

15 January (of the following year)

Publication of the list of 10 candidates to be put forward for the OHIM Annual Prize.

End March (of the following year)

Official ceremony in Alicante to bring together the 10 selected candidates and to award the Prizes to the six winning candidates.

Article 10
Travel and subsistence costs

Travel and subsistence costs for 10 candidates not resident in the town of Alicante (Spain) shall be borne by the OHIM, in application of the rules of travel expenses for external participants at OHIM meetings.

Subsistence costs cover three nights and must not exceed EUR 126.57 per night.

All costs to be reimbursed must be evidenced by invoices or original documents (receipts, tickets).

Article 11
Amendment of the present Regulation

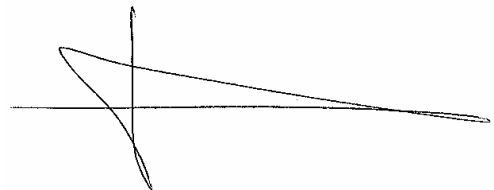
The OHIM reserves the right to amend the rules governing the OHIM Annual Prize at the beginning of each year.

Article 12
Final provisions

Pursuant to Article 4, completed applications must be sent, **in paper form only**, to the following address:

Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM)
OHIM Annual Prize
For the attention of the Director of GAERD
Avenida de Europa, 4
E-03008 Alicante
Spain

Done in Alicante, 22 January 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. Wubbo de Boer,
President of the OHIM