

## CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

1. PLEXUS Investments Ltd (hereafter referred to as PLEXUS) will be awarding the annual «PLEXUS Advancement Award for Artificial Intelligence in the Financial Sector» – for the best scientific paper on this topic. Any work submitted must investigate AI in the context of the financial sector. The research must be empirical and should have practical applications. Other assessment criteria include the scientific structure of the paper, its methodology, general structure and text quality.
2. Candidates eligible for the PLEXUS Advancement Award are students with their master's thesis (in exceptional cases: their bachelor's thesis) and doctoral candidates with their dissertation. In both cases, the candidate must have successfully submitted their work to a university or university of applied sciences to obtain their respective academic degree. Furthermore, said thesis or dissertation needs to have been assessed and deemed acceptable for the award of the respective academic degree by a university or university of applied sciences. A paper may only be submitted for consideration for a PLEXUS Advancement Award once.
3. Submissions must be written in German or English.
4. The PLEXUS AI Advancement Award is worth 10,000 Euros. Depending on the winner's place of residence, this prize money may constitute taxable income. It is the sole responsibility of the winner to pay any and all taxes owed on this prize money.
5. Should the jury find that none of the submitted work merits an award, PLEXUS will not bestow the Advancement Award on any candidate. Should the jury find that several (three at most) submissions merit an award, the prize will be awarded jointly.
6. Authors applying for the Advancement Award must submit their work directly and electronically to the e-mail address [submissions@plexusinvestments.com](mailto:submissions@plexusinvestments.com). Submissions must be received by PLEXUS by 11:59 p.m. on 31 December 2026.

The following documents or information must be attached to the submission:

- a summary of the work, no longer than three pages, describing the hypotheses set out in the paper, the methodology used and the results obtained (at least font size 11),
- confirmation from the university or university of applied sciences that the work has been deemed acceptable for the award of the respective academic degree,
- for bachelor's theses, a recommendation by the supervising professor,
- the name, address and e-mail address of the author,
- and the author's CV with a photograph (max. two pages).

Only complete submissions will be considered for evaluation. PLEXUS reserves the right to request original copies of individual documents. The copyrights to the submitted works remain entirely with the authors. By submitting their entries, participants grant PLEXUS the right to store the submitted documents for the purpose of conducting, evaluating and documenting the award and to pass them on to the jury appointed for the selection process. The complete works will be treated confidentially and will not be published.

By submitting his or her work, the author agrees that PLEXUS may publish and use his/her submitted summary (as a whole, in excerpts or paraphrased), name and photograph on the internet, in printed materials and at the award ceremony.

7. Submissions will be assessed by a panel of experts appointed by PLEXUS. This panel will choose a winner from among the submitted papers. Panel members can be supported by PLEXUS during the decision-making process.
8. Members of the PLEXUS AI Advancement Award panel who have themselves acted as supervisor on a submitted paper will abstain from voting on said paper.
9. The award ceremony will be held in spring 2027. All the latest information will be regularly published on [www.plexusinvestments.com](http://www.plexusinvestments.com).
10. Data protection  
By submitting his or her documents, the author declares that he/she has read the PLEXUS privacy policy (in accordance with the GDPR) and agrees to it. Said privacy policy is available at [www.plexusinvestments.com](http://www.plexusinvestments.com). Furthermore, the author agrees to receive information from PLEXUS and permits the storage, processing and use of his/her personal data. The author can make changes to or completely revoke this permission at any time, i.e. make use of his/her right of objection without giving reasons. This can be done by sending an e-mail to the following address: [d.dimarzio@plexusinvestments.com](mailto:d.dimarzio@plexusinvestments.com)
11. By submitting his or her work, the author accepts and agrees to these conditions.
12. Recourse to legal action is excluded.

***We look forward to your submission!***