

GBM (German Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) Master Thesis Award

Since 2006 the GBM honors excellent master theses written in the fields of biochemistry or molecular biology with the Master Thesis Award (GBM-Masterpreis). The award is bestowed in association with the city based junior groups and since 2019 is awarded in Cologne too.

Who can apply?

Graduates of the University of Cologne are eligible for application if their master thesis is strongly related to the fields of biochemistry and/or molecular biology and has been officially submitted to the examinations office by September 30th, 2025.

How can a candidate be nominated for the award?

Candidates can be nominated by the professor supervising the thesis or can nominate themselves. Nomination occurs via email to koeln@junior-gbm.de and must include all the required documents. The documents required are the master thesis in PDF format, a copy that does not include your name also in PDF format and a confirmation from the examinations office certifying that the thesis has been submitted. The supervising professor may only nominate a candidate with their agreement. A short message is sufficient, a letter of recommendation is not desired.

How is the winner determined?

The winner is determined in a two-step process. In the first step the junior GBM Cologne Master Thesis Award Committee, consisting of students enrolled in a Bachelor/Master Biology/Biochemistry/Chemistry course at the University of Cologne, reaches a preselection. In the second step a professor at the university selects the winner from the preselection.

What prize does the winner receive?

The winner of the award will receive a book voucher from Springer Spektrum worth 150 euros and a free one-year membership in the GBM. The membership includes the BIOspektrum magazine.

When and where is the awards ceremony?

The GBM Master Thesis Award in Cologne is presented once a year. The next awards ceremony will take place at the end of November; exact details regarding the time and location will follow. A master's thesis from the winter term 2024/2025 or the summer term 2025 will be honored. The recipient of the award is required to give a 10-minute presentation about the thesis. Usually this occurs during the biochemical colloquium.

The application deadline for the GBM Master Thesis Award 2025 in Cologne is September 30th, 2025.