



The Organizing Committee of the Polish Control Conference (PCC) 2026 organizes the **PhD-Students Contest**, a competition dedicated to recognizing and honoring exceptional research conducted by the PhD students in the broad field of automatic control, its applications and supporting technologies. The Contest aims to promote academic excellence by acknowledging the best research contributions (co-)authored and presented by the PhD students during the PCC 2026. This initiative provides a platform to disseminate new significant findings or applications and gain recognition within the scientific community.

Eligibility Criteria:

- C1. Participation is open exclusively to the PhD students/candidates who are registered attendees of the PCC 2026. Proof of the PhD student/candidate status is required (a valid student ID, a confirmation letter or the other documentation signed by a PhD School office or by a promoter) and must be provided to the Contest Chair.
- C2. Only the papers that are authored or co-authored by the PhD students/candidates are eligible for the Contest. The PhD student/candidate must be the first author of the paper, and he/she must present the paper's content during the conference in person.

Application Process:

- A1. Submit your paper through the official Conference submission platform. Please, ensure compliance with all the submission guidelines and deadlines outlined by the Conference.
- A2. During the submission process, indicate your intention to participate in the Contest by marking an appropriate selection.

Evaluation Process:

All submissions will undergo a standard peer-review process of the PCC 2026. After an acceptance of the paper an additional rigorous evaluation of the paper, and its presentation during the Conference, will be performed by a distinguished Contest Jury comprising the experienced researchers appointed by the Organizing Committee of the PCC 2026. The overall assessment will be based on the following key criteria*:

- E1. originality and significance of the research results (contribution to advancements in the field of control and automation) presented by the PhD student/candidate,
- E2. methodological correctness, range of the results (theory/simulations/experiments), and technical soundness of the paper's content,
- E3. quality of the oral presentation of the paper's content during the PCC 2026.

* If all the papers submitted to the Contest will be of insufficient quality, the Contest Jury reserves a right to not recognizing any paper with the Award and leave the Contest not decided.

Award: The Contest Jury will recognize the first author of best PhD student's paper with the award of 500 EUR (or its equivalent in PLN). The results of the Contest will be announced during the closing ceremony of the PCC 2026.

Contact Details: For further information or inquiries regarding the Contest, please contact directly the Contest Chair at aleksandra.swietlicka@put.poznan.pl