



## CeMESS Teaching Award 2026

The Centre for Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science will award the Teaching Award for outstanding teaching in 2026.

With this award, we want to recognise outstanding achievements in the field of teaching and make visible the hard work and commitment of our teachers. CeMESS will award one Teaching Award to individual teachers and/or teams of teachers (in the case of team teaching) for courses that have already been completed.

Students, students' representatives, tutors, teachers and office-holders have the opportunity to nominate courses that they consider to have been of outstanding quality.

### Content focus

#### Category "Problem solving"

The award recognizes courses in which instructors guide and motivate their students to apply knowledge and subject-specific methods to analyze and solve complex problems. Through insights into current research and application fields, students learn basic scientific approaches and how to develop scientific questions and deal with them appropriately.

By engaging with real scientific questions and data, students learn to design and evaluate their own approaches to complex microbiological and environmental challenges. In doing so, we aim to foster scientific curiosity, methodological rigor, and a reflective understanding of how research contributes to addressing societal and environmental issues.

### Award ceremony

The Teaching Award will be presented at the CeMESS summer party on June 18th, 2026. All laureates are invited to participate in the 'Teaching inspires' event on 20 November 2026.

### Prize money

The prize money of **€ 3,000.-** per course is not earmarked for a specific purpose and goes directly to the laureate(s).

### Nomination

All courses held at the University of Vienna from summer semester 2025 to winter semester 2025/2026 can be nominated.

#### The following persons are eligible to nominate

- Students' representatives
- Groups of at least 3 students
- Tutors
- Teachers nominating their own course
- Colleagues
- (Vice-)deans for teaching as well as (deputy) directors of studies

## Submission and nomination deadline

The submission deadline for teachers and the nomination deadline for students is **16 April 2026**. In the event that students nominate a course, the Faculty/Centre will notify the responsible teacher(s) asking them to submit/upload a submission by **30 April 2026**.

For external nominations, the nomination deadline is **16th of April 2026** (by email to [annina.mueller@univie.ac.at](mailto:annina.mueller@univie.ac.at), stating the name of the lecturer and the course).

The submission form can be found on the [CeMESS Webpage](#), please send it to [annina.mueller@univie.ac.at](mailto:annina.mueller@univie.ac.at).

Nominate now!

## Selection process

### Timeline

17.3.2026	Announcement of the categories by CeMESS
16.4.2026	<b>Deadline for external nominations</b>
30.4.2026	<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE and deadline for self-nominations</b> All submitters are asked to provide a concise and meaningful description of their course. In this description, self-nominees should justify their approach to course design.
27.5.2026	<b>Faculty jury: Selection and decision on awarding the prize</b> Information of the award winners
17.6. 2026	<b>Award ceremony at CeMESS Summer party</b>

## Selection criteria

The categorical selection criteria are:

- Design problem-, project-, and case-based learning scenarios in which learning is activated by predefined or newly developed problems.
- Use discipline-specific case methods to foster competence development through work on authentic individual cases.
- Apply subject-specific knowledge to concrete problems in a research-oriented way, experimenting with relevant methods and procedures.
- Incorporate a critical understanding of theories and concepts to evaluate and test different solution approaches.
- Implement problem-based learning in interdisciplinary student groups to develop scientific questions beyond the boundaries of one's own discipline.
- Support innovation and the assumption of responsibility.

In addition, the following cross-category documents will be considered:

- (1) the course evaluation (if available); and
- (2) the meaningful and complete course announcement in the course catalogue.

All teaching awards will be announced on our website. No information can be given about courses that have not won an award.