

Minerva Award for Graduation Theses

Introduction: As part of the **Minerva Award for Excellence in Business 2025**, the initiative aims to raise awareness and reward young university students who have developed a graduation thesis on the topic of promoting women in the workforce, the female labour market, and, more generally, issues related to inclusion and female empowerment. The Minerva Award, promoted by **Unindustria** and **Federmanager Roma**, has been working on these topics for several years.

Eligible Candidates: Graduates in legal, economic/social, and scientific disciplines who have written a thesis on topics such as women's economic and social empowerment, gender perspectives on sustainability, laws for emancipation, labour and wage desegregation, welfare policies, and the full exercise of gender-based rights.

Topics (non-exhaustive examples):

- 1. The role of education and training in promoting a culture of equality
- 2. Transition from education to work and educational/professional segregation
- 3. Female leadership, access to top management roles in public and private sectors
- 4. The role of collective bargaining and social dialogue in promoting gender equality
- 5. Fair wages, gender pay gap, and workplace treatment
- 6. The role of public services and welfare in sharing family responsibilities and work-life balance
- 7. Economic/financial independence and decision-making autonomy
- 8. Entrepreneurial opportunities and support for female entrepreneurship
- 9. Empowerment and freedom of choice
- 10. Equal voice in family and social settings
- 11. Combating gender discrimination
- 12. Preventing and addressing gender-based violence and sexual harassment in the workplace
- 13. Positive actions for workplace inclusion
- 14. Gender certification models
- 15. Data, gender, and society: gender statistics and analysis
- 16. Infrastructure for gender equality
- 17. The private sector's contribution to gender equality and closing gender gaps
- 18. Gender perspectives in artificial intelligence
- 19. Financial education from a gender perspective
- 20. The impact of biases and stereotypes in the labour market and organizations

Requirements: Applications are open to students who have earned a bachelor's degree, master's degree or single-cycle degree. The thesis must have been presented and discussed no more than two years before the publication date of the call for applications.

Deadline and Application Process: The application form (Annex 1), duly completed and accompanied by the thesis in electronic format, must be sent by <u>no later than February 18, 2025</u>, to premiominerva@un-industria.it

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Evaluation Criteria: The theses will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1.	Relevance to the competition theme	10 points
2.	Originality and innovative approach	30 points
3.	Research methodologies used	30 points
4.	Completeness and clarity of presentation	20 points
5.	Adequacy of bibliographic sources	10 points

The final and non-appealable decision will be made by a panel of experts selected by Unindustria and Federmanager Roma. The composition of the evaluation panel will be announced after the application deadline.

Evaluation Results: The results of the award selection will be communicated to the selected candidates via email from premiominerva@un-industria.it within 10 days of the award ceremony.

Financial Award: The prize is valued at €1,500.00 per thesis, with a maximum of three theses being awarded.

The awards ceremony will take place during the Minerva Award for Excellence in Business 2025 event, scheduled for March 26, 2025, where outstanding female managers and businesses will also be acknowledged and awarded.

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