



**Union Internationale
de Spéléologie**

www.uis-speleo.org



Guide for Nominations



April 2025

1 – INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide an overview of the UIS Prizes as well as information on how to make nominations for 2025.

The UIS Prizes were introduced by the Organizing Committee of the 11th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) in China (1993) and formally accepted by the UIS Bureau at the 12th ICS in Switzerland (1997).

According to the Internal Regulations of the UIS, *“Prizes are given at the International Congress of Speleology for specific accomplishments at the congress or during the period since the previous congress. Prizes may be given for outstanding books, scientific posters presented at the congress, and other contributions to speleology as determined appropriate by a Prize Committee appointed by the UIS Bureau.*

The Prize Committee will also decide the number of prizes, who will receive them, the nature of the prize (e.g. certificate, medal, funds, etc.), and other conditions as necessary per the unique materials and accomplishments present at a congress or since the previous congress.

The prizes are not competitive and not related to the cartographic, photographic, athletic, and other competitions at the congresses. More than one prize may be given for a category, and prizes will not be given if the Prize Committee does not find accomplishments worthy of the recognition.”

2 – PARTICIPATION

Participation in the UIS Prizes for 2025 is open to any person and/or association, except for the UIS Bureau Members. Each author may submit only one nomination and cannot apply for multiple nominations.

Submission of a nomination implies acceptance of these regulations, the purpose of the UIS prizes, and the decisions made by the UIS Bureau appointed judges. Nominators grant the UIS the right to use, at no cost, all photos, graphics and images that were sent as part of the nomination to support the goals of the UIS.

3 – CATEGORIES

For the UIS Prizes 2025, five categories are considered:

CATEGORY 1:

The Most Significant Cave Discovery/Exploration

The UIS Bureau reserves the right to nominate additional discoveries for this prize. If more than one discovery or exploration deserves an award, an Honorable Mention may be given.

CATEGORY 2:

The Most Significant Publication About Caves or Karst

Scientific and/or technical publications will be considered for this prize.

Two subcategories are considered for this prize, as follows:

2.a – Printed Publication

2.b – Digital Publication

CATEGORY 3:

The Best Special Book

Printed or digital books that are important speleological publications but not necessarily related to scientific/technical topics will be considered for this prize.

CATEGORY 4: Poster Prize

Prize for the best poster displayed at the 19th ICS (<https://www.speleo2025.org/>).

Two subcategories are considered for this prize, as follows:

4.a – The Best Poster in Scientific Research – Selected by a committee of judges at the congress.

4.b – The Best Poster in Cave Exploration – Selected by a vote of the visitors to the 19th ICS poster exhibition.

CATEGORY 5:

Greatest Scientific Achievement

Prize for the most important or significant scientific achievement in any area of cave or karst research.

4 – NOMINATIONS

As the 19th ICS will be held from July 20-27, 2025, **the deadline for nominations is June 30, 2025.**

When nominating, please specify the category. In the case of books, the same nomination will be accepted for both categories 2 and 3, provided that this is clearly indicated.

E-mail is the preferred method for submitting nominations, which should be in English. Books in Categories 2 and 3 will be accepted in the other official UIS languages too (French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian). However, the nomination and all basic information about the publication must be sent in English.

Below are the UIS 2025 Prize Committee members and their addresses. Please email your nomination to all of them individually and also send a copy (CC) to uisprizes2025@uis-speleo.org

- **José-María Calaforra (Spain) – UIS Bureau**
jmcalaforra@ual.es
- **Mario Parise (Italy) – UIS Bureau**
mario.parise@uniba.it
- **Marc Mentens (Philippines) - UIS Bureau**
marcbingcacao@gmail.com

All nominators will be informed once their nomination is officially registered.

4.a - Nominations for Category 1 (the Most Significant Cave Discovery/Exploration) **and Category 5** (Greatest Scientific Achievement) should include the following information:

- **Person responsible for the nomination:** *full name and contact address.*
- **Brief description of the discovery/exploration or achievement and its significance:**
 - **Location:**
 - **Discovery/exploration or achievement team or team leader(s):**
 - **Photos:** *maximum of five for future use by the UIS Prize Committee. They must be in JPEG format. In a separate file, send the name of each photo file, caption for the photo, and the name of the photographer.*
 - **Publication(s) about the discovery/exploration or achievement:** *specify if any.*

Note: only the discoveries/explorations or scientific achievement presented during the 19th ICS will be eligible for nomination.

4.b – Nominations for Category 2 (*The Most Significant Publication About Caves or Karst*) **and 3** (*Special Book*) should include the following information:

- **Person responsible for the nomination:** *full name and contact address.*
- **Title of the publication**
- **Author(s)**
- **Brief description of the publication and its significance**
- **Publisher**
- **Date of publication**
- **Language(s)**
- **Cover photo(s):** *in high resolution—if possible—and JPEG format*
- **Information about printing:** *Color, paper, size, number of pages, etc*
- **Website for digital version, if available**
- **Digital file:** *if the file is smaller than 12 Mb, send it by email. Otherwise, for larger files please send by Wettransfer (www.wettransfer.com) or other similar platform to transfer large files.*

ATTENTION: In addition to nominations via the Internet, we request that a hard copy of the book be sent to the following address:

CONSULT EVENTOS

Att. Clóvis Prates

Rua Barão de Macaúbas, 460 - Sala 1305

Bairro Santo Antonio

CEP 30350-090

Belo Horizonte - MG - Brazil

Please, do not forget to write **UIS PRIZES 19th ICS 2025-BOOK NOMINATION** on the package. Such information is important so that the organizers of the congress can easily recognize and separate it from the other materials of the 19th ICS.

The nominators will be informed once their package is successfully received.

Alternatively, the organizers of 19^o ICS 2025 will accept to consider to **hand-delivery** of the books for the exhibition at the first day of the conference, as an alternative to postal delivery because the shipping costs could become quite high in some cases.

The books will be displayed during the congress for appreciation of the public as well as for the technical analysis of the judges. After the congress, the book will become a part of the UIS library. The Prize Committee reserves the right to cancel a nomination if the printed copy cannot be displayed at the congress.

4.c – For Category 4 (Poster Prize) there will be no nominations but only judgment by a scientific committee composed of international experts (*Best Poster in Scientific Research*) and voting by the visitors of the 19th ICS (*Best Poster in Cave Exploration*).

5 – JUDGING

- **Category 1** will be judged by a committee of international speleologists familiar with exploration throughout the world.

- **Categories 2, 3, and 4.a** will be judged at the congress by a scientific committee invited by the Prize Committee.

- **Category 4.b** will be selected by the votes of the visitors of the 19th ICS exhibition posters.

- **Category 5** will be judged by a scientific committee invited by the Prize Committee.

The names of the judges will not be released to preserve the confidentiality of the process.

6 – AWARDS CEREMONY

The UIS Prizes 2025 Award Ceremony is planned for the closing of the 19th ICS.

The ceremony will be illustrated by a Power Point presentation of the awards and will be led by the Prize Committee Chair. No results will be released before the Awards Ceremony.

7 – RECOGNITION

Prize winners will receive an award certificate. Different types or additional awards (e.g. medal, plate, funds, etc.) may be given by the UIS Prize Committee per the unique accomplishment of the awarded nomination and/or the materials and circumstances of the congress or since the previous congress.

Prize winners will also be recognized in a report on the awards that will be published in the first issue of the UIS Bulletin after the 19th ICS. Photos taken during the Awards Ceremony will illustrate the report.

Additionally, the UIS is developing a permanent page for “UIS Awards” on its website www.uis-speleo.org where the winners will be listed.

8 – FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The UIS encourages the international speleological community to submit nominations. For any questions or information concerning the UIS Prizes, please, contact the UIS Prize Committee Chair at uisprizes2025@uis-speleo.org.

Comments and suggestions on the nomination process and operation of the UIS prizes are always welcome.

**Finally, do not forget, please:
THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS
IS JUNE 30, 2025.**



Main entrance of BeFly Minascentro, the 19th ICS venue. The UIS Prizes 2025 Award Ceremony is scheduled for the night of Saturday, July 26th, during the Closing Banquet of the congress.