

13<sup>th</sup> Call for the  
**Friedrich-Robert-Helmert-Award**

for the best doctoral dissertation of the year 2025/2026

The **PhD students** at the GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences make a significant contribution to the GFZ's success through their academic achievements. With the **FRIEDRICH-ROBERT-HELMERT-AWARD**, the Association of Friends and Supporters of the GFZ e.V. (GFZ Friends) honours the best doctoral thesis of the year in the Centre's fields of expertise and research.

#### **Award**

The winner is awarded a cash prize of 1,000€ together with a certificate and a one-year honorary membership in the GFZ Friends. The prize money is not bound to specific purposes. The award ceremony will be publically announced.

#### **Call for entries**

The Friedrich-Robert-Helmert-Award is awarded on an annual basis and will be conferred for the thirteenth time. The deadline for submission of applications is **1st June 2026**. All doctoral candidates whose outstanding doctoral dissertation has been supervised by a scientist from the GFZ and is primarily based on research work carried out at the GFZ are eligible to apply. The doctoral procedure should – in the Helmert sense – be strongly application oriented and must have been completed during the previous year or before the deadline of the current year of application.

#### **Application documents to be submitted**

- Short summary of the doctoral thesis (max. 2 DIN-A4 pages)

- Proof of completion of the doctoral procedure (copy of the doctoral certificate)
- Short evaluation of the work by the supervisor at the GFZ
- Curriculum vitae and list of publications

#### **Selection process**

The decision on the award winner is made by the GFZ Friends Board on the basis of expert recommendations.

Please submit your applications by e-mail to:  
gfz-friends-vorstand@gfz.de  
to Dr. Ulrike Sylla

We wish you every success in your application for the

**FRIEDRICH-ROBERT-HELMERT-AWARD.**



#### **Helmert, Friedrich Robert**

Helmert, Friedrich Robert, born 31st July 1843 in Freiberg (Saxony), died 15th June 1917 in Potsdam; from 1869-1870 observer at the Hamburg Observatory, in 1872 appointed Professor for Geodesy in Aachen, in 1887 appointed Professor for Advanced Geodesy in Berlin, from 1886-1917 Director of the Royal Prussian Geodetic Institute (Königlich Preußischen Geodätischen Institut) on the Telegrafenberg.

As a pioneer of the mathematical and physical theories of modern geodesy, Helmert rendered Potsdam the world centre for scientific geodesy. He made a major contribution to the development of methods for geoid determination. The Potsdam absolute value of the Earth's gravitational pull, the so-called „Potsdam gravity value“, was the international reference value from 1909 to 1971.