

# LES TROPHÉES<sup>\*</sup>

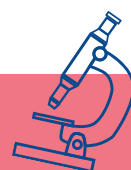
## *Climat & Biodiversité*

The **Maud Fontenoy Foundation**, in partnership with the **FORVIA Foundation**, is pleased to invite you to participate in the first trophies whose objective is to support student researchers involved in research and the development of solutions for and through the Ocean.

### Who can participate?

**All doctoral level students.** The trophies are open to students from French doctoral schools, universities or affiliated laboratories, as well as to students from equivalent foreign schools or those participating in European and international doctoral programs.

### Objective



Support and promote student projects in scientific, technological and industrial research around climate issues and the preservation of biodiversity. Particular emphasis is placed on the advantages of **marine biodiversity** and the **preservation of the Ocean in general**, within the framework of the solutions studied.



## AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

**Supported by exceptional biodiversity, the ocean environment is the primary climate regulator of our planetary ecosystem:** it holds many solutions currently being studied or remaining to be studied. These solutions, which depend on the proper functioning of marine ecosystems, are also threatened by human activities: pollution, warming of surface waters, overexploitation, eutrophication, etc.

According to the latest IPCC Report, their preservation and restoration constitute a key axis in the fight against climate change.

Through these trophies, the two foundations wish to identify **innovative solutions for the preservation of the oceans or the development of industrial or technological solutions that respect the environment and are inspired by the ingenuity of marine biodiversity.**

The aim is to demonstrate **that ocean ecosystems are not only essential to the balance of our planet, but also the best allies in the fight against climate change.**



# THEMATIC

The theme of the 2025/2026 edition :

## “Oceans: innovating to preserve”

Research in the service of oceanic and coastal ecosystems

### Main criteria

- **Completeness of the file.** The submitted project must be presented as requested on the registration form accessible online.
- **Current or future application of the solution.** The solutions studied should ideally describe their potential in terms of application, and present a concrete example of their current or future effectiveness.
- **Circularity.** The presence of a virtuous circle (environmental, social or economic dimension of the solution) will be highly appreciated.
- **Validity.** Depending on the nature of the solution studied, particular attention will be paid to its technical and/or scientific coherence.

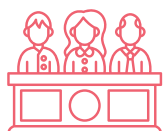
### The prizes

**A grant of €50,000 is distributed among the winners.**

It can be used to support a need for materials, innovative equipment, international mobility, field experimentation, operating funds, finance an entrepreneurial project, etc.



### Jury



Our jury is composed of members of the Maud Fontenoy Foundation and the FORVIA Foundation, researchers recognized in their field, as well as members of leading scientific and technological institutional partners.



## HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Projects are submitted by the student candidate whose research project is supervised by a French doctoral school and a thesis director, or their equivalent abroad.

The grant is paid to the structure that hosts and supervises the research of the winner. The structure must then ensure the use of the grant received within the framework of the project presented. It commits to this in writing which must be attached to the student's application file.

**Registration of applications and submission of files is done via the dedicated online platform: <https://maudfontenoyfoundation.plateformecandidature.com>**

## Application Deadline

**Candidates can register and submit their application online until Sunday, December 31, 2025.** The jury will meet during the first quarter of 2026.

**The registration process is quick.** Any additional documents will be requested during the first selection phase in January 2026.



## Contact

For any questions and requests for additional information, we invite you to contact us at this address:  
[secretariat@maudfontenoyfoundation.fr](mailto:secretariat@maudfontenoyfoundation.fr)



Since 2008, the Maud Fontenoy Foundation has been committed in France and internationally to preserving our oceans. It leads ocean education actions with the support of its scientific partners and the Ministry of National Education.  
[www.maudfontenoyfoundation.com](http://www.maudfontenoyfoundation.com)



Since 2020, the FORVIA Corporate Foundation (automotive equipment manufacturer) has been carrying out actions on a global scale: its main mission is to support solidarity projects carried out by FORVIA employees in favor of mobility, the environment and education.  
[www.faurecia.com/en/sustainability/forvia-foundation](http://www.faurecia.com/en/sustainability/forvia-foundation)



## WINNERS 2025

**The jury prize** is awarded to **Mia REYNAUD**, a first-year doctoral student, for her research on supporting a community of shellfish fishing women in finding sustainable resource management measures in the Saloum Delta in Senegal. **She receives an award of €5000.**



**The 3rd prize** is awarded to **Matthieu Foulquié**, a 3rd-year doctoral student at the MER ET SCIENCES Doctoral School of the University of Toulon, for his project which could help save the Mediterranean giant oyster from extinction, the largest shellfish in the world. **He wins a grant of €10,000.**

**The 2nd prize** is awarded to **William ZOZAYA**, a PhD student at CRIOBE in Moorea, for his work on identifying corals resistant to climate change. The goal is to develop a simple and quick test to identify these "super-corals" in the field and to be able to associate them with other species to help reefs resist heat waves. **He wins the grant of 15,000 €.**



**The first prize** is awarded to **Aurélié Aqua**, a second-year doctoral student in Moorea as well. Aurélié draws inspiration from what we do on land by introducing ladybugs to fight aphids in vegetable gardens. She is testing the use of an endemic sea urchin from French Polynesia to combat the algae that suffocate and kill coral reefs. **She wins the grant of €25,000.**





## WINNERS 2024

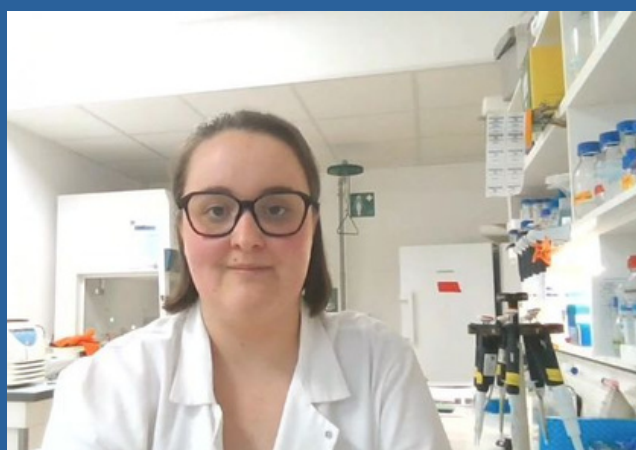
**The 3rd prize** was awarded to **Chloé Abry** from the Jules Guyot Institute of Vine and Wine at the University of Burgundy. Her project involves the development of a fungicide produced by a microalga, which could replace certain chemical products used notably in winemaking. **She wins a grant of €5000 for her 3rd prize plus the special jury prize of €5000, totaling €10,000.**



**The 2nd prize** was awarded to **Ines Ventura Vieira** from the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon. Her project involves developing a medical adhesive inspired by sea urchins, which would be usable in precision reconstructive surgery. This means that by taking inspiration from the characteristics of a marine animal, Ines is developing a technology capable of saving lives. **She wins the grant of €10,000.**

**The 1st prize** was awarded to **Mariette Gibier** from the University of Sorbonne, who proposes to produce biodegradable microplastics from cultivated microalgae. **She wins the funding of €20,000.**

*" Participating in these Trophies brought my thesis work out of the laboratory to share it with the general public, who took hold of the subject and gave it all its meaning in the fight for the preservation of the oceans."*



Find the videos of the 2024 and 2025 award winners





# AWARD CEREMONY

*As France celebrates "The Year of the Sea", Maud Fontenoy, Ambassador to the Ministry of National Education and Youth, for education about the sea and seaside classes, presented her foundation's prizes on May 27 to the young winners who took up educational challenges for the Ocean, as well as to the doctoral students who won the second edition of the Climate & Biodiversity trophies.*

The event took place in the presence and with the valuable support of **Claude Lelouch, Jeremy Frêrot, Pascal Légitimus, Alex Goude and Cyril Hanouna**, who came to encourage the doctoral students as well as the 1000 children invited for the occasion to join Maud in the legendary Olympia hall.



[Discover the 2025 ceremony.](#)



We also had the great honor of welcoming **Rear Admiral David Samson**, who came to represent **the Chief of Staff of the French Navy**, as well as **Mrs. Isabelle Cornu, General Delegate of the FORVIA Foundation**, a major partner of the foundation which rewarded **Aurélie Aqua**, who arrived specially from Tahiti to receive the first prize of the Climate and Biodiversity Trophies and present her innovative project.

**Maud Fontenoy and her team would like to warmly thank the teams at the Olympia, Flab Lab, the Canal+ Foundation**, the event's primary partner, as well as **the Keyrus Foundation**, which provides financial support for the ceremony, and the many partners and individuals who contributed to making this ceremony exceptional.