

PROPERTY RESEARCH COMPETITION 2025 RULES AND TIPS

This competition encourages participants to create concise summaries of their research tailored specifically for property professionals, enhancing access to academic research and fostering researchers' industry friendly communication skills.

The competition has two stages.

1. submission of translations by email to a judging panel
2. an event with in-person verbal presentations of the six best entries to a panel of industry professionals.

Three finalists will be selected by a panel of judges from each of a) faculty and b) post graduate researchers to give a 3 minute verbal presentation of their translation to compete for cash prizes of first prize \$1,500, second prize \$750 and third prize \$500. The total prize purse \$5,500.

Selected entries and all finalists will be featured on the Property Foundation website, newsletters, and LinkedIn posts.

WHO CAN ENTER?

Researchers based at any tertiary education institution in New Zealand that teaches and conducts research relevant to the property industry. For the purposes of this competition the property industry embraces residential real estate, commercial and industrial property, agricultural property, property development, investment, design, planning, architecture, valuation, project management, construction, and property management.

Entrance is limited to:

Research-active Faculty staff with a minimum appointment requirement of 0.2 FTE.

PhD Students who graduated on or before 1 January 2020.

Current Masters students and PhD students.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

All entries must be translations of your own or co-authored original research published on or after 1 January 2020 in academic journals, technical reports, PhD dissertations or Masters dissertations that is of relevance to the property industry in New Zealand.

All co-authors must be informed of the submission by the entrant.

Entries to be NO MORE THAN 750 WORDS, including text in tables, charts, and images.

Submissions must be formatted as a pdf and sent by email to admin@tpf.org.nz with the subject: Property Translation Submission.

A pdf of the original publication or dissertation synopsis you have translated must also be attached to your submission.

Each entrant may make a maximum of two submissions, which must be submitted separately.

The entrant gives permission for The Property Foundation to re-publish or quote from their submission(s), and The Property Foundation will credit their work.

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 30 NOVEMBER 2025. Only the first 100 entries received will proceed to judging.

STAGE 1 JUDGING CRITERIA

This is based on the degree to which the topic of the research is of interest and relevance for property industry professionals, the comprehensibility of the translation and the potential for practical application of the research's findings.

1. The likely interest and value of the findings to the property industry: 20 points
 - Does it address a significant issue? (10 points)
 - Can the research be easily applied to add value to businesses? (10points)
2. Accessibility for industry professionals: 20 points
 - Is the formatting clear and easy to follow? (10 points)
 - Is it written in plain language and an easy to read style? (10 points)

The three highest scoring entries from faculty academics and the three highest scoring entries from post-graduate researchers will be invited to present their translations in person to an industry panel at a competitive prize-giving event in Auckland during Q1 2026.

THE PRIZE-GIVING EVENT

The event will be organised by The Property Foundation during March 2026 at a central Auckland location with an invited audience.

Finalists will be asked to give an in-person 3 minute 'elevator pitch' presentation of their submission. You may use slides or other media to support your presentation.

There will be networking opportunities and refreshments will be provided,

Prizes will be announced during the post-presentations networking.

STAGE 2 PRIZE JUDGING CRITERIA

Six judges with sub-sector expertise related to the finalist's topics will be recruited from the property industry. They will rank the finalists on:

1. the clarity and logical structure of the presentation and audience engagement – 5 points
2. the potential value of the research findings for property professionals – 5 points

Finalists may use slides or other a/v support and will be contacted with guidelines for their use.

TIPS

Entrants should think carefully about these principles (adapted from The Harvard Review of Business).

1. What is the central message of your research (the "aha")? What is important, useful, new, or counterintuitive about your findings? Why do industry professionals need to know about it? What problem does it resolve, what opportunity does it promise?
2. For which kinds of companies/organizations in which sub-sector would it work especially well? Why?
3. How can your research outcome be practically applied by the property industry in New Zealand today (the "so what")?
4. On what previous work (either your own or that of others) does this idea build?

In general, avoid lengthy descriptions of your methodology as industry professionals are typically not interested in methods, at least initially.