

## IWA Anaerobic Digestion **Early Career Award**

The **IWA Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Specialist Group Early Career Award** recognizes outstanding accomplishments of early-career professionals in the field of anaerobic digestion and related resource recovery technologies.

The award aims to highlight emerging leaders who are contributing to advancing the science, engineering, and application of anaerobic processes and who demonstrate strong potential to shape the future of the field.

The awardee is expected to act as an **ambassador for the AD Specialist Group and the wider IWA community**, promoting innovation, collaboration and knowledge exchange in anaerobic digestion.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The nominee is required to meet the following criteria:

1. Is within **5 years after PhD or highest awarded degree** at the time of nomination (excluding documented career breaks).
2. Has made a **notable contribution to the field of anaerobic digestion**, such as:
  - development of new concepts, methods, or technologies
  - application or implementation of AD processes
  - advances in modelling, monitoring, or control
  - contributions to circular economy and resource recovery
3. Demonstrates **scientific excellence and/or impact on practice**, including academia, industry, utilities, or policy.
4. Has been an **active contributor to the IWA or AD community**, for example through:
  - conference participation (oral/poster presentations)
  - organisation of sessions, workshops, or webinars
  - involvement in Specialist Groups or Task Groups
5. Shows **leadership potential** and the ability to contribute to the development of the AD field.
6. Demonstrates engagement with **stakeholders beyond academia**, such as industry, utilities, governmental agencies, NGOs, or local communities.

## NOMINATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Self-nomination is encouraged. The nominee must provide:

1. A **short curriculum vitae** (maximum 3 pages), including: up to **3 representative outputs** and a brief explanation (3–5 lines each) of their impact on the AD field  
*(evaluation aligned with DORA principles)*
2. A **statement of achievements and future vision** (maximum 1 page), describing:
  - the nominee's most relevant contributions
  - their vision for the development of anaerobic digestion in the next 5–10 years
3. **Two support letters:**
  - at least **one from outside the home institution**
  - at least **one from an IWA member**  
(maximum 1 page each)
4. Contact details of a **third independent referee**  
(name, affiliation, email, phone), who may be contacted by the Award Committee.

All documents must be submitted in **one single PDF file**.

Submissions should be sent to: <https://forms.gle/q7gkM3hp8qM3Vpbb9>

*(If you are unable to submit via the online form, please contact any member of the IWA AD Specialist Group Management Committee)*

Deadline: **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 23.59 GMT**

Incomplete or late applications cannot be considered.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Scientific and/or technological contribution to anaerobic digestion
- Innovation and originality
- Impact on research, industry, or society
- Engagement with the AD and IWA community
- Leadership potential and future vision

## AWARD RECOGNITION

The awardee will receive:

- Formal recognition from the **IWA AD Specialist Group**
- Announcement during the **IWA AD World Conference (AD19)**
- An opportunity to contribute to a **dedicated presentation or invited talk** within the AD conference series. TBD