

halabala

Cena profesora Jindřicha Halabaly

Brno 18. August 2026

The Jindřich Halabala Award 2026 Competition

- For secondary and university students
- Focus on furniture and interior design
- Announcement of results and opening ceremony
- Organized by the Department of Furniture and Design
- The Jindřich Halabala Award is awarded annually to students of universities in the Czech and Slovak Republics and other foreign universities. The award is awarded for the best semester projects in the field of furniture and interior design. The competition was first held on the 100th anniversary of the birth of prof. Jindřich Halabala.
- The aim of the exhibition is to allow students from universities and secondary schools to present their papers and compare their work in a broader scope. It should also help young students show different approaches to the work of their older colleagues.
- Submitted papers will be evaluated by an expert jury. The competition will take place in two rounds. In the first round, electronically submitted papers will be evaluated by an expert jury composed of representatives of secondary schools and universities and important institutions in the first half of October 2026.
- Students whose works receive a positive rating by the jury in the electronic evaluation will subsequently be invited to submit their papers for exhibition at Mendel University in Brno. Selected authors will receive further instructions in an e-mail.

Categories

- Furniture Design (Case Study Paper)
- Furniture Design (Thesis)
- Interior Design (Case Study Paper)
- Interior Design (Thesis)
- Furniture and Interior Design (Secondary School Category)
- Public Award (All Nominated Entries)

Competition Rules

The international Jindřich Halabala Award competition is open to students from secondary schools and universities within the European Union studying furniture and design fields of study with a focus on furniture and interior design. Students submit projects with their school's permission. Each student can submit a maximum of two papers. Papers can be submitted until **4 October 2026**.

- Students need to fill out a link to in order to submit their paper. The following information is required: name, surname and contact details, information about the paper: title, supervising teacher, category, form of submission and a brief description of the paper.
- A minimum of three and a maximum of five graphic files are also required (images *.jpg, *.tif, *.png), with a maximum upload file size of 10 MB. File title in the format: Name_Surname_Paper title. The file resolution must be 300 DPI. The format of attached images must be 16:9 or 9:16.
- We recommend submitting designs along with a sample or 3D model (3D model of product design M1:1 „chair...“, scaled model for interior).
- Descriptive text may have a maximum of 400 characters.
- Submitted papers will not undergo proofreading, so please pay attention to the text in the application.
- Applicants are responsible for transportation of competition exhibits for the final evaluation and exhibition.
- **The competition organiser reserves the right not to award prizes in the announced competition categories.**

Competition Categories and Awards

Furniture Design (Case Study Papers) - Main prize, Award, Special award

Furniture Design (Thesis) - Main prize, Award, Award, Special award

Interior Design (Case Study) - Main prize, Award, Award, Special award

Interior Design (Thesis) - Main prize, Award, Award, Special award

Furniture and Interior Design (Secondary School Category) - Main prize, Award, Award, Special award

Public Award – all nominated entries - Award

Price for Main prize 10.000 CZK, Award 5.000 CZK, Special Award 3.000 CZK

Dates

- 1. September 2026 – open registration (00.00 – CET)**
- 4. October 2026 – registration closed (23.59 – CET)**
- 16. October 2026 – selection of nominated works**
- 27. October 2026 - the competition's opening ceremony (17.00 – CET)**
- 2. November - selection of winners and the awards ceremony (15.00 – CET)**

Competition Jury

The competition jury will be appointed by 4 October 2026 and its members will be published on the competition organiser's website.

History

Jindřich Halabala was a prominent furniture maker active in the 20th century in the former Czechoslovakia. From the post-war period until his death in 1978, he significantly contributed to raising the standard of living and creating a new, modern lifestyle. He worked as a teacher at the former University College of Forestry and Wood Technology in Zvolen (currently the Technical University in Zvolen) and indirectly influenced the establishment of the current Department of Furniture Design and Wood Products.

In October 2004, this department and the ZSVTS Zvolen Woodworking Congress organized the 5th international symposium 'Furniture 2004'. It was at this symposium, on the 100th anniversary of Jindřich Halabala's birth, that the 1st 'Jindřich Halabala Award' student competition was announced as a tribute to his lifelong work. The statute of the competition was approved by the scientific council of the Faculty of Wood Sciences and Technology, Technical University in Zvolen, and the scientific council of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno. In the following year of 2005, the 1st year of the competition was held in Zvolen with the participation of 16 students and 32 papers, along with an exhibition of their works.

Since then, these universities have been taking turns in sponsoring and organizing the competition - TZU (odd years) and MENDELU (even years). In the 9th year in 2023, the competition opened up to participants from other countries of the European Union. This year's competition will be the 20th international student competition.

The confrontation of submitted papers at an international level has prompted a rise in the quality of student papers and helped spread creative opinions, enabling the presentation of these works to the professional and lay public.

Competition organiser

The 'Jindřich Halabala Award 2026' competition is organized by the Department of Furniture and Design at the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno.

Contact Details - Jindřich Halabala Award 2026

Mendel University in Brno, Department of Furniture and Design, Department Secretariate +420 545 134 169
halabala@mendelu.cz

GDPR

MENDELU Data Controller: Mendel University in Brno, Zemědělská 1665/1 613 00 Brno Czech Republic
Data Protection Officer (DPO): Mgr. Ing. Martin Pernica, Ph.D. E-mail: dpo@mendelu.cz

Best regards,

Ing. David Děcký, Ph.D.

Department of Furniture and Design

LDF Mendel University in Brno