

Olive Award 2025

The Olive Award is presented to a teaching team that most successful is in developing initiatives that **realise and guarantee language-aware education**.

Objective: To demonstrate appreciation for the work carried out by lecturers and to draw attention to their contribution to quality education. Inspiring other lecturers. The (new) format also enables the university of applied sciences to draw attention to the strength of a highly collaborative team.

Inspiring educational practices that promote language skills in an integrated way in (vocational) education, with a focus on inclusion, multilingualism and professional language development.

Language is the key to learning, professional conduct and equal opportunities. In line with our Educational Vision, language-aware education is the theme of this year's Olive Award. Language development does not only take place in language lessons, but in all subjects and degree programmes. By combining subject-specific education and language skills, we strengthen the communication skills of students — both within and outside the degree programme.

Language-aware education contributes to inclusion, better learning performance and strong preparation for the profession. In doing so, we place language at the heart of good and accessible education for all.

Prize: The jury award for the winning team is Euro 1.000,- to be spent on literature, and Euro 2.500,- to be spent on an activity carried out together with students in the professional field/ at a social organisation. The Public Award for the winning team is Euro 500,- to be spent on literature.

NB: The awarded prize money must be spent in 2026 based on the objectives described above.

Selection: A maximum of three teams can be submitted by each faculty. If there are more than three eligible teams within a faculty, the faculty selects which teams are submitted to the expert jury.

The expert jury will then select three teams from the teams submitted. These three teams present their work (via a short movie) during THiNK FeST on Thursday the 6th of November (while the other teams receive an honourable mention). The jury selects a winner and a Public Award (by students and staff) is presented.

A. The following must be provided for each team nominated- General criteria

Title of team	
Faculty(ies)	
Name of contact person	
Phone number	
Email address	

1. A product with an explanation why your team deserves the Olive Award 2025. Show us how you have worked or collaborated as a team. Refer to the criteria used by the professional jury (see below) in their assessment.
2. Recommendations from:
 - a. Students
 - b. Colleagues, not on the nominated team
 - c. Program Manager

Criteria for the jury and points for recommendations:

The professional jury, preferably consisting of a member of the Executive Board, a lecturer, an educational consultant, a student and a member of the previous year's winning team.

B. Theme-related criteria: Language-aware education

1. **Integration of language into vocational education**
 - Language development is an explicit part of vocational education (e.g. through writing, speaking, reading or listening assignments).
 - Language goals are linked to subject goals.
 - Structural provision of language support (e.g. via formats, checklists, peer feedback).
2. **Connection to future field of work**
 - The language used in education is consistent with and prepares students for the language used in their intended profession.
 - Language requirements for the professional field are made explicit and taught.
3. **Vocabulary and multilingualism**
 - There is explicit focus on (academic) vocabulary development.
 - Multilingualism is recognised, valued and utilised to strengthen language skills, learning outcomes and self-confidence.

4. Accessibility of learning materials and assessment

- The learning materials were formulated with a focus on comprehensibility, clear structure and active wording.
- The three pillars of language-aware education, context, interaction and language support, are clearly applied in the learning materials.¹
- Test questions are clear, unambiguous and free of unnecessary complexity or abstractions that have not been practised.

5. Language awareness among students & enjoyment of language

- Students are encouraged to think about their own language development.
- Reflection on language use and learning strategies is part of education.
- Attention is paid to language enjoyment, reading skills and personal expression

Submissions must be received by the expert jury **by 18 September 2025**. Nominations with the required input can be sent by e-mail **via management team** to prijzenparade@hhs.nl stating: *Nomination for Olive Award 2025*

Questions can be sent to prijzenparade@hhs.nl

¹ Context: Learning materials provide sufficient background and meaningful embedding of (technical) language.

Interaction: Materials encourage language use and interaction between students.

Language support: There is support for language development, e.g. Example sentences, formats, visual aids, explanations of complex concepts, feedback, feed forward and feed-up.