The 2nd award ceremony for the Best Bachelor’s Thesis 2024 took place on-line on November 21st with the participation of 11 contributions by new graduate students from various Spanish universities (Huelva, Salamanca, Barcelona, Autónoma de Madrid, Zaragoza, Basque Country, Oviedo, and Complutense de Madrid). The participants defended their theses during a five-minute presentation before the evaluating committee, consisting of delegates from the SEM executive council (Rafael Pérez, Cristina Villanova-de-Benavent, Pedro Gil, and David Benavente). The event concluded with a special talk by Núria Pujol-Solà (postdoctoral researcher at the Universidad de Granada), entitled “My experience in research: from curiosity to scientific contribution.”

The committee decided to award the following three contributions as the most outstanding based on the quality, scientific rigor, adequacy, and communication skills in both the theses and presentations.

**Ainara Rodrigo García (Universidad de Huelva):** “Mineralogical and geochemical study of a precipitation profile of the passive treatment plant of Mina Esperanza (Huelva, Spain).”

**Javier Posado de Castro (Universidad de Salamanca):** “Geological and mineralogical study of the scheelite skarn of Monleón (Salamanca, Spain).”

**María Usieto Lecha (Universitat de Barcelona):** “Building waste to treat contaminated waters: induction of alkalinity and mineral alterability with persulphate.”

The other participants’ contributions included:

**Ana Isabel Alonso (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid):** “Osteological analysis of the fossil material of an ornithopod from Lower Cretaceous (Buenache de la Sierra, Cuenca).”

**Cristina Sanz Ascaso (Universidad de Zaragoza):** “Palaeoenvironmental study of the Garum facies containing dinosaur eggs (Loarre): mineral and chemical analysis.”

**Alejandro Guevara Franco (Universitat de Barcelona):** “Study of the copper and critical element mineralisations in the La Rubia Mine, Menorca.”

**Artizar Mikeo Zabalo (Universidad del País Vasco- Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea):** “Mineralogical study of the rare element pegmatite of Plumbago (Maine, USA).”

Alicia Rivero Zamora (Universidad de Oviedo): “The metasomatic mineralisations of beryllium gems associated with the Franqueira pegmatite (Pontevedra): rocks, alterations, and mineralogical characteristics.”

Judith Ruiz Torrent (Universitat de Barcelona): “Assessment of possible critical element mineral resources in hardened in the Southwest of the Catalanides range (Tarragona).”

Júlia Soler Pozón (Universitat de Barcelona): “Emplacement conditions of the Barcelona granodiorite.”

José Eduardo Novo Dos Santos (Universidad Complutense de Madrid): “Assessment of the industrial potential of the Rodada Formation shales (MB. 2) to the North of El Atazar, based on its mineralogy.”

We want to congratulate the winners, acknowledge all the applicants for their participation, and wish them all a bright future career!

Ainara Rodrigo García
Javier Posado de Castro
María Usieto Lecha

---

**SEM GRANTS PROGRAMME SUPPORTS THE PARTICIPATION IN THE EMC24**

The SEM, in its interest to encourage the communication of the research of its young members, opens the application for grants to attend meetings and conferences for students. The SEM grants programme supports the participation of these members in the EMC24, for which they should communicate their participation in the conference (secretaria@semineral.es) and comply with all the requirements of the call. It is also foreseen to award prizes for the best communications presented at EMC24. All information is available at https://www.semineral.es.