



Detailed Application Instructions and Criteria 2023

Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)

About:

The following student award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health and/or disease, based on written communication and scientific achievement.

The award is offered annually, and selected winners are recognized at the annual international WDA conference.

The winner receives a plaque and between \$2,500 to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the annual international conference plus 1-year's membership (Student or Regular Member Online Journal only). If the expenses related to attendance at the annual international conference are less than the minimum value of \$2,500 US, then the amount remaining can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment, and other educational expenses incurred by the student during the pursuit of his or her graduate degree.

The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference and their attendance is mandatory.

Deadline:

Applications must be received electronically no later than – 5 pm Samoa Standard Time (UTC-11:00) on **January 25th, 2023**

Applicant eligibility:

Applicants must be **students AND members of the WDA**. Confirm your WDA membership status or join WDA now

Definition of a student:

Enrolled in a graduate student program at least half-time **or** is participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or a graduate degree.

Applicants must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree (e.g., PhD, MSc, internship, residency) at the time of application. **Exception:** Students who have completed their graduate programs are eligible to submit applications for the WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award up to the first annual international WDA conference occurring after the completion of their studies.

Application criteria and process:

For consideration, applicants must electronically submit their application (formatted in PDF or MS Word files) as an e-mail attachment to the Co-chair of the Student Awards Committee **Stuart Patterson** student.awards@wildlifedisease.org.



Applications must be received no later than – 5 pm Samoa Standard Time (UTC-11:00) on **January 25th, 2023**

Awards will be announced March 1st, 2023.

The application should include the following documents:

1. **A summary of their research structured as follows:**

Title, abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, discussion, references, tables, and figures. The abstract, introduction, materials and methods, results, and discussion must be limited to 10 double-spaced pages with a typeface of font 10 or larger and 1-inch margins. The title page, figures and tables should be separate from main text. A maximum of 3 tables and 3 figures can be presented in no more than 6 pages. The title page, figures and tables should be separate from main text.

Overview of SRRA summary scoring criteria:

- **Title:** The title accurately reflects the work performed in the study.
- **Abstract:** The abstract concisely and clearly summarizes the study.
- **Introduction:** The introduction provides sufficient yet concise background and clearly states study hypothesis(es) and/or objectives.
- **Methods:** Methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of the study.
- **Results:** Results (including tables and figures) are clearly presented and agree with methods of the study.
- **Discussion:** Conclusions and discussion are sound, logical, supported by the data presented, provide context for the study in relation to current knowledge and literature and do not extrapolate unnecessarily. Discussion should cover management implications of research, where appropriate.
- **References:** Appropriate references are included and cited to support factual statements in the manuscript, without redundant citations.

2. **A cover letter:**

Maximum 1 page, font 10 or larger

Written by the applicant, stating solely how the research relates to the WDA mission and why the research is innovative and significant.

The **WDA mission** statement is available on the WDA website

Innovation - the study involves an important novel approach or addresses a novel topic using new designs, methods, hypothesis.

Significance – the research relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena with internationally recognized relevance or of extreme local/regional importance

3. **One letter of support from the faculty advisor:**

Indicating the advisor is well versed in the student's topic and the degree of student



involvement in planning and execution of the research project.

Grounds for disqualification include:

- Summary of the research is > 10 pages excluding tables, figures, and references.
 - 3 tables; > 3 figures; total number of tables and figures presented over > 6 pages
- One of the three items is missing.
- Submission was received after deadline.
- Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.