

WDA STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION

The Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) annually offers four student awards. Eligible students^a are encouraged to compete for the following award:

WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA):

This award is given to the student judged to have the best research project in the field of wildlife health or disease. The winner receives between \$2,500 to \$5,000 US to cover travel, housing, registration, and similar expenses related to the annual international WDA conference plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online). If the expenses related to attendance at the annual international WDA 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.

Eligibility:

Applicants for all WDA awards must be *students* AND members of the WDA. Confirm your WDA membership status or join now via the [WDA website](#):

<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/MEMBERAREA/JoinRenew.aspx>

WDA **student** definition: 1) enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or graduate degree.

Applicants for the WDA Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA) & WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA) must be pursuing an advanced (graduate) degree at the time of application. Exception: Students who have completed their graduate programs are eligible to submit applications for the WDA Graduate SRRA up to the 1st annual international WDA conference occurring after the completion of their studies.

Applicants for WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award must be WDA members and students at the time abstracts are received.

All WDA student awards are non-renewable, and each award may be received only once by a given candidate. Students can compete for as many awards as they like each year. However, there are restrictions to which awards can be awarded to the same student within the same calendar year (see table 1: Student Award Eligibility within the same calendar year). All awards will be presented at the annual international WDA conference.

Please direct inquiries to: WDA Student Awards Subcommittee at student.awards@wildlifedisease.org

Table 1: Student Award Eligibility within the same calendar year

	Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)	Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)	Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award	Student Travel Award			
Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)							
Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)					The winner of the SRRA cannot be awarded the SSA in the same calendar year.		
Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award					The Terry Amundson Student Presentation Awards can be awarded to the winner of the SSA in the same calendar year. However, if the SSA winner is awarded a Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, then they are not eligible to win a poster presentation award.	The winner of the SRRA is the student plenary speaker at annual international WDA conference and therefore is not eligible to be scored for the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award.	
Student Travel Award ^a					The winner of the SSA is awarded funds that can be used to travel to the annual international WDA conference and therefore is not eligible to be awarded the Student Travel Award.	The winner of the SRRA is awarded funds to travel to the annual international WDA conference and therefore is not eligible to be awarded the Student Travel Award.	The Student Travel Award can be awarded to the same student as the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award.

^a Student Travel Award winners are NOT determined by the Student Awards Committee (SAwC). These are awarded by the WDA Student Activities Committee. SAwC Chair informs WDA Student Activities Committee of the SSA and SRRA awardees.

Detailed Application Instructions

Wildlife Disease Association Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA)

DEADLINE: Applications must be received electronically no later than – **May 1, 2024** [5pm in [West Samoa Time](#)].

This 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 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 WDA conference. If the expenses related to attendance at the annual international WDA 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 winner will also receive a 1-year membership to the WDA (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

The student will be the keynote speaker during the student presentation session at the conference.

Applicant eligibility:

Applicants must be **students AND members of the WDA**. **Confirm your WDA membership status or join now via the [WDA website](#)**. WDA **student** definition: 1) enrolled in a graduate student program at least half-time, or 2) be participating full-time in an internship or residency program which is approved for credit towards board certification or 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-chairs of the Student Awards Committee (student.awards@wildlifedisease.org). The application should include the following documents:

- a) 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 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.
- b) A cover letter (max 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 inside the back cover of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases or 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
 - c) 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.

d) 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.