

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 Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA):

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife health or disease. The scholarship has a minimum value of \$2,000 US, which can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by you as a student during the pursuit of your graduate degree, or to support travel to conferences plus 1-year's WDA membership (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online). An additional \$1,500 is available to the winner, if they choose to use the funds to attend the annual international WDA conference. **Two WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Award awards are available.**

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):

<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 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.

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 Scholarship Achievement Award (SSA)

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

This award acknowledges outstanding academic and research accomplishment, productivity, and future potential in pursuit of new knowledge in wildlife health or disease.

The scholarship has a minimum value of \$2,000 US, which can be used for fees, books, supplies, equipment and other educational expenses incurred by you as a student during the pursuit of your graduate degree, or to support travel to conference and is awarded annually to an outstanding student pursuing master's or doctoral degrees specializing in wildlife health and/or disease research. An additional \$1,500 is available to each winner, if they choose to use the funds to attend the annual international WDA conference. The maximum amount of \$3,500 can only be dispersed to the winner following delivery of related receipts for travel, lodging, registration and other conference-related expenses to the WDA treasurer. The two winners will also receive a 1-year membership to the WDA (Student or Regular Member Worldwide Online).

Two WDA Graduate Student Scholarship Achievement Awards are available.

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. To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

Candidates with an **overall grade point average of 3.5 or above in 4.0** systems or 80% or better in percentile systems will receive priority.

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:

To be considered, applicants must electronically submit one copy of the following documents (formatted as PDF or MS Word files) as an e-mail attachment(s) submitted to the Co-Chairs of the Student Awards Committee (student.awards@wildlifedisease.org). If possible, please combine documents into a single PDF document and attach to the email.

- a) Two reference assessments, including one reference assessment from the student's faculty advisor, that directly address the following specific abilities of the applicant: *academic achievement, scholarly promise, research ability, oral and written communications skills, industriousness, leadership abilities, judgment, and potential for contribution to the field of wildlife diseases*. Additional reference assessments (> 2) will not be read or evaluated. Applications are scored on the basis of each reference addressing each of the qualities listed above, including clear examples of how the candidate exemplified each quality. One point will be subtracted if examples are not included or poorly written (unclear, lacking specificity, etc.) Students will **only** be notified if assessments are **not** submitted by the deadline to complete their applications.

****The link to the assessment tool must be sent by the student to their preferred references with a request to have the assessment completed by the application deadline.**

Assessment link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3Is6UMOknGcd9b8iAq_4hw6lt1VmwWZHEmcNml_ozKzbfK_A/viewform?usp=sf_link

- b) A curriculum vitae demonstrating evidence of superior scholastic achievement and productivity. See overview of scoring criteria below. CVs should specifically list and describe:
- Candidates must include a clear list of completed degrees (undergraduate, MSc, PhD) and residencies, indicating the date of completion or noting in progress.
 - An overall grade point average must be provided for either the most recently completed undergraduate degree OR veterinary degree (whichever of the two was most recently COMPLETED). Please provide as part of the list above. Students not scored on the 4.0 grade point system must include an official explanation of the grade point or grade score system used at their institution and preferably provide a conversion to a 4.0 or percentile grade point average. It is the student's responsibility to have one calculated.

- List all publications and presentations, including presentations at local, regional, national, or international scientific conferences or meetings communication, as well as publications in magazines / newsletters (e.g. non-peer reviewed articles), are evaluated based on number of professional presentations and non-peer reviewed publications. Authorship should be included.
 - List all peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals. Authorship must be included.
 - List all forms of professional leadership and community service post high school, including dates of participation, and noting leadership positions held.
- c) All collegiate transcripts. Official transcripts (i.e., with the imprint or official seal of the institution and signature of the responsible university officer) or copies signed by the student's faculty advisor are acceptable. These allow the Student Awards Committee to verify the list of degrees and the GPA or equivalent provided. Student Awards Committee will not calculate overall GPAs based on your transcripts.
- d) Grounds for disqualification include:
- Items missing, including overall grade point average / conversion to grade point average
 - Submissions received beyond the deadline date.
 - Failure to secure status as a student member of the WDA at the time of application.

OVERVIEW OF SSA SCORING CRITERIA

Evaluation: There are 5 categories upon which the candidate is evaluated. Each section receives a numerical score of 1-5 with **5=excellent**, **4=above average**, **3=average**, **2=below average**, and **1=unacceptable**. The highest total score for all sections will determine the winner of the scholarship. The maximum score possible is **33**.

I. Scholarship.

GPA: Students should be scored for their GPA for *either* their veterinary degree or undergraduate degree (whichever of the two was most recently *COMPLETED*). GPA will only be considered for the most recent degree that was *COMPLETED*. If a GPA is not provided by an institution, it is the students' responsibility to have one calculated and provide information about the calculation.

Number of degrees: This category provides a score for the number of undergraduate or graduate degrees or residencies that have been *COMPLETED*.

II. Leadership and service. Students are scored on the quantity and consistency of their community service activities and leadership positions held.

III. Reference assessments. ONLY TWO REFERENCE ASSESSMENTS ARE SCORED. Any reference evaluation > 2 is not read or evaluated, as determined by the Committee Chair. Reference assessments are scored on the following criteria: academic achievement, scholarly promise, research ability, oral and written communications skills, industriousness, leadership abilities, judgment, and potential for contribution to the field of wildlife diseases/wildlife health. One point will be subtracted if the assessment does not include examples or is poorly written (unclear, lacking specificity, etc).

IV. Communications. Student's ability to communicate is evaluated based on number of professional (oral and/or poster) presentations – these include presentations at local, regional, national, or international scientific conferences or meetings, as well as publications in magazines / newsletters (e.g. non-peer reviewed articles). Authorship should be included. Scores will be weighted based on level of education completed and whether the student is a first author on the presentation or other contributing or non-presenting author.

V. Research potential. Students are scored by the number of peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals (do not count presentations in lay materials, websites, teaching notes, etc). Authorship must be included. Note: 'In press' publications are counted, however publications which have been 'submitted', 'In review' or 'In preparation' will NOT be counted. Scores will be weighted based on level of education completed and whether the student is a first author on the presentation or other contributing author.