

QUALIFICATIONS

The SIMB Diversity Travel Award has been established to promote diversity and to increase the participation of underrepresented minority groups in the Society of Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology (SIMB) amongst the graduate students making presentations at any SIMB-sponsored meeting. Recipients of this award must be:

- A U.S. citizen or permanent resident;
- A female and/or an underrepresented minority (American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Asian, Hispanic, or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander);
- A current graduate student or a graduate student at the time the abstract was submitted; and
- The presenting author of an abstract accepted for presentation (poster or oral session) at an SIMB-sponsored meeting.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Two awards will be offered to support attending each of the SIMB-sponsored meetings, including the SIMB Annual Meeting, the Symposium on the Biotechnology of Fuels and Chemicals (SBFC), Recent Advances in Microbial Control (RAMC), and Recent Advances in Fermentation Technology (RAFT). To apply for this award, a student must:

Indicate at the time of abstract submission that she /he is eligible and wants to be considered for the award by checking the corresponding box in the abstract submission system;

Provide the **Student Status Verification Form** filled and signed by the graduate advisor or the graduate program coordinator to verify the student's citizenship, female and/or underrepresented minority status, and graduate student status; and

Submit a **letter of diversity commitment** to indicate why he/she should be considered for the award. Instructions for this letter can be found in these guidelines.

The forms and instructions for the letter can be found at the Abstract Submission site for each meeting.

The student status verification form, letter of diversity commitment, and a copy of the submitted abstract identifying the student as lead presenter must be sent electronically in PDF format to diversity-awards@simbhq.org by 11:59PM EDT on the final date for abstract submission for each meeting. This deadline will be strictly enforced. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered; should the abstract submission deadline change, the submission deadline for this award will be delayed concurrently. Information on whether or not the abstract has been accepted will be obtained from each meetings Program Committee.

SELECTION PROCESS

The Diversity Committee shall review the qualifying abstracts and supporting information for adherence to the submission requirements. Award recipients will be selected based on the scientific quality of the abstracts and their commitment to diversity; alternates will also be identified. Award recipients will be notified in advance of the Annual Meeting but after notification of abstract acceptance.

In the event that no applications are received or if the applicants are judged to be unqualified by the Diversity Committee, then no award will be given

OTHER

Each winner receives a certificate, \$500 to help cover travel to the meeting and a one-year student membership in SIMB. Attendance at the SIMB-sponsored meeting is required for receiving this award. Should an awardee be unable to attend, the award will be presented to an alternate previously identified by the committee who also meets the criteria. Award winners are not eligible to apply for this award again.