

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 the 6th International Conference on Natural Products Discovery and Development in the Genomic Era. To apply for this award, a student must:

Indicate at the time of abstract submission that they are eligible and want 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 they should be considered for the award. Instructions for this letter can be found in these guidelines.

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 **October 13, 2026**. 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 the NP 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 particular 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 5th International Conference on Natural Products Discovery and Development in the Genomic Era 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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTER OF DIVERSITY COMMITMENT

The Letter of Diversity Commitment is mandatory for the application process for the SIMB Diversity Travel Award. The purpose of the letter is to demonstrate why the candidate deserves the award and should include:

Information about the applicant's scientific projects and motivation for pursuing a graduate level degree;

Commitment to diversity; and

Steps taken to promote diversity at the applicant's institution or in other settings.

The letter should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12 and consist of no more than two pages single-spaced.

STUDENT STATUS VERIFICATION FORM

This form is used to verify the status of the applicant named below for the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology's (SIMB) Diversity Travel Award to aid in attending the 6th International Conference on Natural Products Discovery and Development in the Genomic Era (January 17 - 21). Completion and submission of this form by the graduate student's advisor or the graduate program coordinator is required for the application process.

The completed form in PDF format can be sent to the applicant for submission or can be submitted directly to diversity-awards@simbhq.org by 11:59PM EDT on **October 13, 2026**. 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.

A) APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____
University/Institution: _____
Graduate program: _____
Email address: _____

B) GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR or GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Name: _____
Relation to Applicant: _____
University/Institution: _____
Phone: _____
Email address: _____

C) PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM WITH THE PERTINENT INFORMATION FOR THE STUDENT APPLYING FOR THE SIMB DIVERSITY TRAVEL AWARD:

1) Is the applicant a graduate student or were they a graduate student at the time the abstract was submitted to SIMB?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2) Is the applicant the presenting author of an abstract submitted for presentation (poster or oral session) at the NP Meeting?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title of the abstract with authors:

3) Is the applicant a U.S. citizen or permanent resident?

☐ U.S. citizen ☐ Permanent Resident ☐ No

4) Is the applicant 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) Female

☐ Yes ☐ No

b) Underrepresented Minority

☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature: _____ Date: _____