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 Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award
This award acknowledges outstanding oral presentation of research findings at the annual international WDA conference. The winner receives an award and $350 US.

[a]**Eligibility:**
Applicants for all WDA awards must be *student* members of the WDA. Confirm your membership status or join now via the WDA website.

S***tudent*** 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 Graduate Student Research Recognition Award (SRRA) & 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 student members at the time abstracts are received.

All 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 (Winner & Honourable mention)	Student Poster Presentation Awards (Winner & Honorable mention)	Student Travel Grant
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 (Two awards: Winner & Honorable mention)	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 Poster Presentation Award (Two awards: Winner & Honourable mention)	The Student Poster Presentation Award **can** be awarded to the winner of the SSA. 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 Student Poster Presentation Award.	The Student Poster Presentation Award **can** be awarded to the same student as the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award. However, if the SSA winner is awarded a Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award, then they are **not eligible** to win a poster presentation award.		
Student Travel Grant[b]	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 Grant.	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 Grant.	The Student Travel Grant **can** be awarded to the same student as the Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award.	The Student Travel Grant **can** be awarded to the same student as the Student Poster Presentation Award.	

[b]Student Travel Grant winners are NOT determined by the Student Awards Committee. These are awarded by the WDA Student Activities Committee.
The Student Awards Committee chair informs WDA Student Activities Committee of the SSA and SRRA awardees.

Detailed Application Instructions

WDA Terry Amundson Student Presentation Award

DEADLINE: The deadline for submission of student abstracts to be considered for this award will be identical to the deadline set for the non-student abstracts. The deadline for calls for abstracts for the 2025 WDA International Conference is **January 15, 2027.**

This award acknowledges outstanding student oral presentation of research findings at the annual international conference. The overall winner of the Best Student Presentation Terry Amundson Award receives an award and US$350. The second-place winner (Honorable Mention) receives an award and US$250.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants must be *student* members of the WDA at the time abstracts are received. Confirm your membership status or join now via the WDA website.

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.

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:

To be considered for this award at the conference, eligible students **must choose to participate in the Terry Amundsen presentation award competition when they submit their abstract** via the abstract submission link on the annual international WDA conference website.

The following items are required at the time of abstract submission to be considered for the Terry Amundson presentation.

- Supplemental abstract of 300 words or less structured in a manner listed in the **Student Abstract Scoring Criteria**
- Proof of student status (e.g., enrollment in a degree program, internship or residency)
- Proof of current WDA membership status (e.g., copy of paid membership confirmation or screenshot of current membership profile on the WDA website)

Student abstracts without proof of student status and current WDA membership at the time of abstract submission, will be considered for the general presentation session and will not be considered for this award.

In addition, the student (presenting author) must also be present to give the oral presentation on their research to the annual international conference audience. Co-authors cannot give the presentation on behalf of the student presenting author, regardless of their student status.

The student abstract should follow the general abstract guidelines as outlined on the WDA conference website. In addition, students submitting abstracts to be considered for the student presentation awards should read the **Student Abstract Scoring Criteria** (see pg. 4 below) **and Oral Presentation Scoring Criteria** (see pg. 5 below) prior to submitting an abstract. These criteria will be used to score abstract on a competitive basis to determine which will be chosen for the conference.

****PLEASE NOTE****

- Students can submit as many abstracts as they like.
- A maximum of ONE abstract will be accepted per student for each presentation modality. (e.g. maximum of 1 oral presentation. If a student has submitted multiple abstracts and multiple abstracts score high enough to be accepted for presentation, the top-ranking abstract will be selected.
- If you indicate that you wish for your abstract to be considered for the student competition and it is not selected, your abstract will **NOT** be considered for presentation for the general session.

ABSTRACT and PRESENTATION SCORING CRITERIA

Student ORAL ABSTRACT Scoring Criteria

Students who wish to be considered for the Terry Amundson presentation award will be required to submit a supplementary abstract that aligns with this format outlined below. These abstracts will then be scored using the criteria (1-5). Student abstracts which do not present a scientific study organized in the manner listed in criteria are not eligible. **Subheadings are not necessary, but each of these topics must be addressed in the abstract.**

Abstracts will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 4 (excellent), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)

1. **Background/Relevance** – the abstract must provide an adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study and how relevant the topic is to the WDA community. **(max 4 points)**
2. **Aims / Hypothesis** – the abstract must list hypothesis(es) to be tested (as applicable) or the aims of the research, in a clear and concise manner. **(max 4 points)**
3. **Methodology** – the abstract must present the methods used in a clear and concise manner. The methods must be adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 4 points)**
4. **Results** – the abstract must report results that relate directly to methodology and are presented in a clear and concise manner. **(max 4 points)**
5. **Conclusions** – the abstract must include conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented in the results section. Management implications should be presented, where appropriate. **(max 4 points)**

Student ORAL PRESENTATION Scoring Criteria

A. Students will be scored on the following criteria with a numerical score: 4 (excellent), 3 (good), 2 (average), 1 (poor), 0 (unacceptable)

1. **Background and relevance** – student provides adequate introduction and background to set the stage for the study. **(max 4 points)**
2. **Aims/Hypothesis** – hypothesis(es) to be tested and aims of study are presented clearly and concisely. **(max 4 points)**
3. **Methods** – the student presents the methods clearly and concisely and the methods are adequate to test hypothesis(es) and address objectives of study. **(max 4 points)**
4. **Results** – the student presents the results in a clear and concise manner and the results are directly related to methodology. **(max 4 points)**
5. **Conclusions** – the student includes conclusions that are sound, logical, and supported by data presented. **(max 4 points)**
6. **Style and engagement** – delivery is clear, audible, and with suitable tone to engage the audience. Visual aids/slides (if used) are well organized, clear, relevant and add value to the presentation. **(max 4 points)**
7. **Innovation/Significance** – the study involves a novel approach or addresses a novel topic, and/or relates to a significant problem in the wildlife health/wildlife disease arena. **(3-meets the criteria very strongly, 2-meets the criteria to some extent, 1-meets the criteria in a limited way, 0-does not meet the criteria)**
8. **TIME** – students have 12 minutes for the presentation, leaving 3 minutes for questions from the audience. Speakers running over the allotted time will be penalized. **(3 points if considered to fulfill this criterion, 0 points otherwise).**

Students can obtain a maximum of 30 points from criteria. A final score will be calculated as the mean of the individual judge's scores.