European Symposium Student Travel Scholarship

The European Symposium Student Travel Scholarships provide travel funding for full-time graduate or undergraduate students to attend the European Symposium on Food Safety, encouraging recipients to participate in educational and Association activities, connect with food safety professionals, and build relationships that support their professional growth. The travel scholarships are intended to inspire students to become actively involved in IAFP and foster continued engagement, learning, and professional development as they prepare for careers in food safety.

*For the 2027 program year, the **IAFP Foundation** is proudly sponsoring travel for two qualified students to attend the IAFP European Symposium on Food Safety. Through generous contributions to the IAFP Foundation, travel scholarships will be awarded to students residing in and enrolled in a college or university food safety-related degree program in Europe.*

Qualifications for applicants

- Current IAFP Student Member.
- Full-time undergraduate or graduate student residing in and enrolled in a college or university in Europe at the time of the application deadline.
- Enrolled in a food science, microbiology, toxicology, or other food microbiological or toxicological safety related program.

Previous recipients of this scholarship are not eligible to apply. Applicant is not required to present at IAFP Europe 2027 in order to qualify. If selected to receive a Student Travel Scholarship, the student will be responsible for paying transportation and meal expenses up front and will be reimbursed for eligible expenses after the European Symposium upon submission of required receipts. IAFP will only secure registration and hotel in advance.

Application requirements

Applications without the following required biographical sketch, responses to questions, and letter of recommendation will be disqualified:

- **Biographical sketch:** Provide a brief biographical sketch (to be written by the applicant) that gives a concise overview of your academic background, professional interests, and experiences and accomplishments most relevant to food safety and food protection. It may include:
    - Current degree program, institution, and area of study.
    - Relevant education, research, internships, employment, or other professional experience.
    - Involvement in student organizations, professional associations, volunteer activities, or other relevant activities.
    - Awards, honors, presentations, publications, or other accomplishments, as applicable.

- Food safety interests and areas of professional development.
- Other experiences or activities that have contributed to your growth as an emerging food safety professional.
- Involvement in local IAFP Affiliate, PDGs and other IAFP programs.

- **Student Responses:** The online application requires applicants to provide written responses to each of the following questions. Responses should be thoughtful, specific, and based on the applicant's education, professional experience, lived experience, research, and career goals, as applicable.
    1. In your education, professional experience, or lived experience, what has most influenced your interest in food safety and food protection?
    2. How would you like to make an impact in the food safety/food protection field? Describe your career aspirations.
    3. What are the anticipated outcomes or what is the potential impact of your food safety research or other projects to which you have contributed?

- **Letter of Recommendation:** One letter of recommendation, not to exceed one page, needs to be submitted from a faculty member or department head on behalf of the applicant. The letter may not be provided by a current IAFP Board Member. The letter should address:
    - The applicant's outstanding qualifications and contributions throughout their academic career.
    - The applicant's potential to make meaningful future contributions to the food safety profession.

European Symposium Student Travel Scholarship
Judging Procedure

Procedure for Evaluation

This procedure was designed with the intention of providing a matrix to help the award jury select a winner with a relatively equitable, semi-quantitative method. Applicants have been instructed to provide specific information that reflects the expectations and specific intent of the European Symposium Student Travel Scholarship. Each criterion listed in the next section has a weight factor that is considered to reflect its importance relative to the specific intent of this award.

The jury's task is to evaluate the applicant by measuring his or her performance against the listed criteria and applying the 1 – 10 Rating Scale given below. To obtain each criterion's weighted score*, multiply the criterion's % weight (in decimal format) by the score that was assigned from the 1 – 10 Rating Scale. Applicants should be ranked for each criterion on their own merit and should also be ranked only in relation to other nominees.

Rating Scale

9.0 –10.0	**Outstanding:** Performance exceeds judge's expectations for criterion
8.0 – 8.9	**Above average:** Performance is above average expectation level for criterion
7.0 – 7.9	**Average:** Performance meets average criterion expectations
6.0 – 6.9	**Below average:** Performance below expectations
5.9 or less	**Unsatisfactory or not applicable:** Performance does not meet criterion expectations, or the criterion does not apply to the candidate

The following is an example of an applicant receiving a perfect score* (10 in each criterion).

Award Criteria	Criterion % Weight (x Factor)	Judge's Score	Weighted Score
Biographical Sketch	**30 % (0.30)**	**10.0**	**3.0**
Question 1	**20 % (0.20)**	**10.0**	**2.0**
Question 2	**20 % (0.20)**	**10.0**	**2.0**
Question 3	**20 % (0.20)**	**10.0**	**2.0**
Letter of Recommendation	**10 % (0.10)**	**10.0**	**1.0**
	100 %		**10.0**

**Weighted score = criteria score given based on rating guideline x criteria weight factor (e.g., if Biographical Sketch score = 8; 8 x 0.30 = 2.4 weighted score)*

Rating nominees and determining recipient of the award

These ranking categories should be used by the judges to determine if an applicant merits receiving the European Symposium Student Travel Scholarship. The ranking should be 8.0 or higher in order to be named as a qualifying recipient.