

2026 Chemistry Travel Award - FAQ

What is meant by "active participation" at an international conference"?

A poster presentation and/or an oral talk have to be physically given at a conference outside of Switzerland. The conference has to last 3 days or longer.

I am doing my PhD at a research institution such as Empa, Eawag or the Paul Scherrer Institute. May I also apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

Yes, also PhD students working at Swiss research institutes are welcome to apply.

I am doing my PhD in collaboration with a foreign university (e.g. in Germany or France). May I also apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

Yes, as long as you are employed and mainly funded by a Swiss institution, you may apply.

I recently finished my PhD and I have a Post Doc position now. I soon will present my PhD thesis at a conference. May I also apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

No. Only students that are registered as PhD students at the submission deadline (March 31st) can apply.

When will the applicants be informed of the decision of the selection committee?

They will be informed by May 15 at the latest.

May I also apply for a conference I already attended?

No. Only conferences participations from May 15 of the present year to May 14 of the following year can be supported.

I've won a «Chemistry Travel Award» last year. What are my chances to win again this year?

Zero, the «Chemistry Travel Award» is a once-in-a-lifetime award, each student can only win once.

May I also apply for a summer school I am going to attend?

As long as you participate in this summer school by presenting a poster and/or giving a talk and the summer school fulfills the other eligibility criteria, your application is welcome.

Do I have to be a Swiss Chemical Society (SCS) member to apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

No, you do not have to be a member of the SCS.

Do I have to submit the same abstract I also submit to the conference registration?

Yes, the abstract of the work you will present (poster or oral contribution) at the conference is required.

I am working in the field of biochemistry/nanosciences/analytics, may I also apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

Yes, doctoral students working in all fields of chemistry may apply.


Can I apply for an international conference which takes place in Switzerland?

No, the conference must take place outside of Switzerland. The conference has to last 3 days or longer.

Do I have to be registered at the conference already before applying for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

No, you only have to put the link of the conference announcement. Careful: choose your conference wisely! If your abstract is not accepted at the conference or if the conference is 'full' (this may happen at certain conferences), you will not be able to switch to another conference. You will still be announced as a winner, but if you can't join the conference, you will not receive the money.

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There is no conference announcement existing that I could submit. What should I do?

You can send the link of last year's conference and add a comment in the comment box.

May I also submit two applications for two different conferences?

No, only one application per student may be submitted. However, several students from one research group may apply, and students that didn't win before may re-apply the following year as long as they still fulfill the eligibility criteria.

May I submit two abstracts (for one conference)?

No, your application must contain only one abstract.

I submitted the wrong document – can I still change it?

If it is still before the submission deadline, then yes. Resubmit your application and write a comment about the change. After the submission deadline, your application can't be changed anymore and will become ineligible if it does not fulfil the criteria.

Can I upload the CV and the abstract in 2 different files?

No, the document needs to be transmitted in one pdf file. Only exception: recommendation letter (see next question).

My supervisor has a confidentiality policy of not handing out recommendation letters to her/his PhD students. What should I do?

Your supervisor may send her/his letter of recommendation in a separate email to chemistry@scnat.ch. In this case, please make sure your supervisor submits his/her letter also before the deadline. No recommendation letters will be considered after the deadline. Submissions missing a recommendation letter are not eligible.

Do I have to send a proof of payment after having attended the conference?

No, we do not demand any receipts of expenses, only a confirmation of attendance is required.

I have missed the deadline for application, is it still possible to apply after March 31st?

A deadline is a deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The same holds true for winners that do not submit their bank information in time.

May I submit my application in French, German or Italian?

No, the application documents and the reference letter have to be written in English.

Will I receive an award certificate?

No, but the winners' picture, name, name of supervisor and title of contribution will be published in Chimia during the year and they are announced on the SCNAT website.

I just won an award, but now I wish to change the conference, is it possible?

No. The choice of conference and the abstract you submitted are part of the evaluation. It is thus not possible to change. Please take into account that the conference cannot be changed, especially when you need sufficient time to apply for a visa. Also, with some conferences there is a risk that you are not at all admitted (limit in participants) – which would mean that you will not receive the financial award.

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