

Chemistry Travel Award - FAQ

OPTION 1: International Conference

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.

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

A poster presentation and/or an oral talk have to be 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 such research institutes in Switzerland 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. As stated in the announcement, only PhD students 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 attendances from May 15 of the present year to May 14 of the next 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, your application is welcome.

Do I have to be a SCS member to apply for the «Chemistry Travel Award»?

No, you do not have to be a member of the Swiss Chemical Society (SCS).

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

Yes, an 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.

Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT)

House of Academies · Laupenstrasse 7 · P.O. Box · 3001 Bern · Switzerland

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.

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? Or apply for the conference and for the lab visit?

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 each year.

May I submit two abstracts (for one conference)?

No, your application must contain only one abstract.

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.

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 31?

A deadline is a deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

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, we prefer to spend the money on supporting excellent students to creating documents. The winners will be published in Chimia.

For Specific questions about adaptations with the Pandemic please refer to the other document.

OPTION 2: Visit to a foreign lab for research

Can I apply to visit a lab in Switzerland?

No, the visit must take place outside of Switzerland. The visit has to last one week (5 days) or longer.

What is meant by "active visit to a foreign lab"?

It means that this visit must be related to your research, not for interviews nor holidays.

What happens if my visit is postponed because of the Covid-19 situation?

The visit can be exceptionally postponed to next year (May 15th 2022 - May 14th 2023), but you have to be doing your PhD while visiting the foreign lab. If your PhD is over by the time of your visit, you won't get the grant (but you will keep the Award 2021 distinction).

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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 lab visit that I already made?

No. Only foreign lab visit from May 15 of the present year to May 14 of the next year can be supported.

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May I also submit two applications for two different lab visits? Or one application for a lab visit and one application for the international conference?

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