



## ICFMH FoodMicro2026 Travel Fellowship — Guidelines, Terms and Conditions

### AIM

To support candidates from low- and middle-income countries who would otherwise face substantial barriers to attending FoodMicro2026. The grant is intended to promote global participation, scientific exchange, and capacity building in food microbiology, food safety, food hygiene, microbial risk assessment, antimicrobial resistance, microbial toxins, emerging contaminants, and related fields.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

- Be formally enrolled as a **post-graduate student** (MSc, PhD or equivalent) at a recognized university or research institution in an eligible low- or middle-income country\* or have obtained their PhD degree within the last 5 years by the deadline of the application;
- Have submitted a poster or oral abstract for any session of FoodMicro2026 Conference (N.B. you should submit your abstract, but not pay your registration fee), and **received formal confirmation of abstract acceptance**;
- Be the **presenting author** of the accepted abstract;
- Have **never previously received** financial support from ICFMH or FoodMicro;
- Agree that, if selected, they will **not apply again** for future ICFMH/FoodMicro travel or participation support schemes;
- Declare any other funding already received, requested, or expected for participation in FoodMicro2026.
- We will also consider applications from postgraduate students studying outside their own country, but in this case we might cover Conference registration and accommodation only.

Applications that do not meet these eligibility criteria will not be considered.

\*We define the least developed or low income countries according to the UN list of least developed countries (<https://unctad.org/topic/least-developed-countries/list>). Depending on the available budget, we may additionally support 1-2 candidates from other countries.

### COVERAGE OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Depending on available funds, travel distance, and demonstrated need, the fellowship may include one or more of the following:

- Waived FoodMicro2026 registration fee;
- Accommodation arranged by the organizers for the official conference period;
- Economy-class travel support;
- Limited meal support, for example through conference catering, meal vouchers, or a modest daily allowance;
- Local transport support where relevant.
- Charges for the visa if a visa is required for visiting the country.

To ensure transparent and responsible use of funds, travel and accommodation will normally be arranged directly by the organizer or the appointed Professional Congress Organizer. The fellowship is not intended as a lump-sum cash grant.

Grant holders are responsible for all issues relating to health insurance for themselves during the travel and the stay in the county where FoodMicro2026 is held.



Extra nights, private travel extensions, accompanying persons, upgrades, personal expenses, minibar, laundry, room service, and other incidental costs are not covered.

### **REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS**

- A duly filled in application form in English;
- A short CV, **maximum 2 pages**;
- The accepted FoodMicro2026 abstract and proof of abstract acceptance;
- Proof that the applicant is the presenting author;
- A short motivation statement explaining the expected scientific and career benefit of attending FoodMicro2026;
- Official proof of post-graduate enrolment;
- A letter of endorsement from the supervisor;
- An official confirmation letter from the faculty, doctoral school, or university administration;
- A declaration of other financial support received, requested, or expected for attending FoodMicro2026;
- A declaration that the applicant has never previously received ICFMH/FoodMicro support and will not apply again for future ICFMH/FoodMicro travel or participation support if selected.

All documents described above should be **combined in a single pdf file** (maximum of 5 MB).

Applications lacking the supervisor endorsement letter or the official faculty/graduate school/university confirmation of post-graduate studentship status and year of study will be **considered incomplete and will not be evaluated**.

**Supervisor endorsement letter:** should confirm that the applicant is a post-graduate candidate under his/her supervision, that the accepted abstract is part of the applicant's research, and that the supervisor supports the application.

**Faculty, graduate school, or university confirmation:** The official institutional letter should confirm the applicant's post-graduate enrolment, status, and expected stage of completion.

### **SELECTION PROCESS**

Eligible applications will be evaluated by a selection committee appointed by the organizers. Selection will be based on:

- scientific quality and relevance of the accepted abstract;
- demonstrated financial need;
- expected benefit for the applicant's PhD and future career;
- relevance to the FoodMicro2026 program;
- geographic diversity;
- institutional diversity;
- gender balance, where possible;
- feasibility of travel and visa arrangements.

The number of fellowships awarded will depend on available funding.



### **CONDITIONS OF SUPPORT**

Successful applicants will be required to:

- attend FoodMicro2026 in person;
- present their accepted abstract as scheduled;
- participate in any fellowship-related welcome, mentoring, or networking activity organized during the conference;
- immediately inform the organizers of any visa, travel, health, or institutional issue that may prevent attendance;
- provide documentation needed for travel booking and financial reporting;
- acknowledge the support where appropriate.
- the fellowship is personal and non-transferable.

Providing inaccurate or misleading information regarding post-graduate status, funding needs, previous support, or institutional affiliation will result in withdrawal of the fellowship and may lead to exclusion from future ICFMH/FoodMicro support schemes.

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE & NOTIFICATION**

- Send application & required documents via e-mail to Dr W. Fang at [whfang@zju.edu.cn](mailto:whfang@zju.edu.cn) and [whfang2001@aliyun.com](mailto:whfang2001@aliyun.com) before **12th July, 2026**;
- Notification on the outcome: **20th July, 2026** or earlier.

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

The FoodMicro2026 Travel Fellowship is designed to remove genuine barriers to participation while ensuring transparent, fair, and responsible use of funds. Support will be provided according to available resources and may not cover all costs associated with attending the conference.