

GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD MICROBIOLOGY AND HYGIENE (ICFMH)

Developing Scientist Poster and Oral Presentation Award Competitions at FoodMicro2026

The International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene (ICFMH) of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) will sponsor Developing Scientist Poster and Oral Award competitions at FoodMicro2026, 7-10 September in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Purpose

1. To encourage students and recent graduates to present their original research in the field of Food Microbiology.
2. To foster professionalism in students and recent graduates through contact with peers who attend FoodMicro2026.

General Information

1. This competition is open to **MSc and PhD students and postgraduate fellows**, including those who have graduated not more than one year prior to July 1, 2026;
2. The entrant must be the **first author** of the poster or oral presentation and be present at FoodMicro2026 to answer questions for a specified time during an assigned session at the conference;
3. The work must represent original research completed and presented by the entrant;
4. Acceptance of an abstract for presentation is independent of acceptance as a competition finalist;
5. The competition entrants must indicate if his/her poster or oral presentation is to be entered in this competition. There is **only one choice** for each entrant;
6. A panel of judges will evaluate the abstracts preceding the conference and assess the poster and oral presentations at the conference;
7. Competitors chosen as finalists will be notified of their status via E-mail by the chairpersons of the Developing Scientist Poster and Oral Award Committees;
8. Competitors must be **registered** for FoodMicro2026;
9. The entrant must clearly indicate the **Date of Admission** or **Date of Graduation** of your postgraduate studies **at the end of the Abstract**. Submissions without such information will not be considered.

Judging Process

All abstracts accepted for presentation and entered in the Developing Scientist Poster or Oral Award competitions at FoodMicro2026 will be reviewed by the Award Committee.

Judging Criteria

- 1 *Abstract* - Clarity, comprehensiveness, and conciseness;
- 2 *Scientific Quality* - Adequacy of experimental design (methodology, controls, replication), extent to which objectives were met, difficulty and thoroughness of research, validity of conclusions based upon data, technical merit, and contribution to science;
- 3 *Presentation* - Organization (clarity of introduction, objectives, methods, results, conclusions), quality of illustrations, ability to answer questions, and knowledge of subject.

Announcement of Awards

The names of finalists will be announced and awards will be presented at the closing session of FoodMicro2026. The winners of first, second, and third place awards will be presented with framed certificates and prizes of 500, 300, and 100 EUROS, respectively, for poster presentations as well as for oral presentations. All finalists are expected to be present at the closing session.