

National Association for Gambling Studies

Student Award

For the Best Conference Presentation by a Student

Aim of the Student Award

The winner of the Student Award for Best Conference Presentation by a Student at the annual National Association for Gambling Studies (NAGS) conference will be awarded funds to attend a major international conference in year following their presentation at NAGS and offered a guaranteed place on that conference program. The aim of this award is to encourage promising students to continue their research in the field of gambling by enabling them to meet with international colleagues, hear about new research, and have a chance to discuss their own research with an international audience of experts in the field. Furthermore, the winner will write a report of the international conference which will be placed on the NAGS website. This will benefit all NAGS members who will have a chance to hear about new international research and discussion amongst experts in the field.

Conditions of Application

Any applicant must be a full or part time student, currently enrolled in an Australian tertiary institution at the time of application. The applicant must be a member or have applied for membership of NAGS at the time of application for the Student Award.

The applicant must submit an abstract for consideration by the Conference Program Sub Committee, along with all other abstracts received. The abstract must comply with all normal abstract submission requirements (set by each Conference Organising Committee and available on the NAGS website) and be lodged by the due date.

When a student learns their abstract has been accepted for inclusion in the Conference Program, they may lodge a Student Presentation Award Application Form, this must be done no more than one month prior to the conference.

The student must be registered for the full conference (day registrants are not eligible to apply or be assessed). Special Student Registration rates for Conference Registration are available – proof of studentship must be supplied at time of registration.

In the case of presentations with multiple presenters, only one presenter may be nominated for the student award, and they must play a significant role in the preparation and conduct of the research and analysis and in the presentation of findings.

Application Process

Students who learn their abstract has been accepted for inclusion in the Conference Program and who wish their presentation to be considered for the Student Award must complete and forward a Student Presentation Award Application Form to the Conference Organising Committee via the Association's Secretariat.

Such application may be submitted with the Conference Registration or afterwards but no later than one month prior to the commencement of the Conference.

The Conference Organising Committee shall collate all applications and note the session times in which Student Presentation Award applicants are presenting papers.

The Conference Organising Committee shall arrange the formulation of a panel of three judges who shall attend all presentations for which a Student Presentation Award application has been lodged.

In comprising the judging panel, the Conference Committee shall ensure that no member of the judging panel has any affiliation with any of the students or institutions at which the students are studying.

Assessment Criteria

Each member of the judging panel shall rate each student presentation on the following dimensions:

The award will be made on the quality of the research and presentation and may only be awarded to students who have played the principle role in the research

The student should clarify whether the research being presented is part of a honours or master's thesis, a doctoral dissertation, and whether it is the culmination of a graduate program, or just a small component of that project.

A. Scientific Criteria

Abstract

Abstract clearly summarises research, especially results, and presentation covers material described in abstract.

Introduction

- Was the research problem clearly introduced? Was the importance of the research question explained? Why was the work done? Did the presenter provide a background and context for the research? What was the state of the field prior to this study?

- Was a clear statement of the hypothesis(es) provided or, in studies that did not test hypotheses, were the objectives and importance of the research clearly stated?

Method

- Were techniques appropriately and clearly explained?
- How creative was the work? If the work employed common techniques, were they used to approach novel issues or novel questions?

Results

- How were the results a valuable contribution to the field?
- Was the significance clearly demonstrated?

Discussion & Conclusions

- Were the results well-summarized and related to the introduction?
- Were the conclusions warranted by the data?
- Did the results provide a valuable contribution to the field of gambling or did they merely provide details about a phenomenon that is already largely understood?
- Was the research sufficiently independent, unique, or creative?
- Were the conclusions placed in a broader context?

B. Presentation

Physical Presentation:

Were the graphics/figures were labeled and clear to understand?

Audio visual aids:

Appropriate use of audio visual aids, familiarity with use, applicability to presentation, easy to perceive.

Timing:

Presentation (not including questions) conforms to time limitations – not too short or long.

Style

This dimension incorporates appearance, incorporation or lack of distracting gestures, use of eye contact, engagement with the audience, clarity of voice, appropriate use of microphone and/or lectern, co-ordination between presenters if two or more. How well did the speaker respond to questions?

These dimensions are weighted according to importance and value to the overall presentation.

Assessment Process

Judges may confer during their deliberations and scoring. The judges shall then combine their scores to derive a total for each student presentation.

The student presentation allocated the highest total score may be eligible to win the Student Prize. To prevent a mediocre presentation, which happens to be the best of a poor range of presentations, from winning the Prize, the judges must decide that the highest score for a presentation is deserving of the award.

Judges will not divulge any scores following individual presentations. In the case that two presentations are tied for first place, the judges shall confer and may consider any other features of the presentations in addition to those above in order to determine which single presentation was best overall.

The Conference Chairperson shall announce the winner during the Conference Closing Ceremony.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Judges, may, at their discretion and following a specific request from a student, provide general feedback on that student's presentation. Such consultations shall not be public and shall take place at times outside Conference sessions.

Conditions of the Award

Prior to the NAGS conference, collaborations will be made with conference organizers of a major international conference to take place the following year to establish that the student award winner will be guaranteed a place on the conference program and have registration fees waived. In return NAGS will guarantee a place on the program for the following year NAGS conference for a student nominated by the international conference committee and waive registration fees.

The winner of the NAGS Student Award at the 2008 conference will present their research at the 14th International Conference on Gambling and Risk Taking hosted by the The Institute for the Study of Gambling & Commercial Gaming, May 25-29, 2009, Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, Nevada. Applicants must be able to attend this conference if they wish to apply for the award.

On receipt of the award, the winning student will be given a certificate and details of the conference they will be attending. The student must be available to attend the conference to win the award. The student may modify their presentation for the international conference in accordance with feedback from the NAGS conference, however, the majority of the content should be the same as presented at NAGS.

The student must attend the entire international conference, including all keynote sessions and one stream from all simultaneous sessions. During the conference they should take notes, and/or obtain copies of the presentations as on return to Australia they must prepare a report on the major findings and discussions of the conference for the NAGS members. This report should cover the main points of all keynote presentations and some of the interesting and relevant research presented in breakout sessions. It is expected that the report will be at least three pages long and should be submitted to the Secretariate one month following the conference. This report will be reviewed by a NAGS subcommittee and placed on the NAGS website.

The student will make all travel and accommodation arrangements to attend the conference, however, must endeavor to take the cheapest, reasonable options available. The student may stay overseas outside the timetable of the conference, however, only expenses involved with attending the conference will be reimbursed. Upon return to Australia the student should write a brief summary of the budget, accompanied by all receipts, and provide this to the Secretariate to be reimbursed with a cheque. It is expected that the budget will be less than AUD\$5,000. If the student does not have sufficient funds to pay for the conference prior to being reimbursed, they may send receipts to the NAGS Secretariate before they leave and be reimbursed for airfares and accommodation, where appropriate. If the winner does not have sufficient funds to directly pay merchants for airfare and accommodation, these may be paid directly by NAGS.