

John Christian Young Food Microbiologist Award 2024

PURPOSE/RELEVANCE OF THE AWARD

The John Christian Young Food Microbiologist award was created as a means of encouraging and supporting the development of young food microbiologists.

PRIZE

1. Certificate for the winner.
2. Complementary registration for the AIFST Food Microbiology Conference in March 2024 in Melbourne.
3. Article to be published in *food australia* (subject to the approval of the AIFST Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicants must be under 30 years of age and under at the time of presentation and must be a member of the AIFST however, not restricted to students.

Finalists are chosen based on a 500-word summary of a food microbiology topic. The topic and content must be related to food microbiology, including general interest topics, research work, literature review, risk assessment, case, or epidemiological study.

Assessment of the applicant summaries will be undertaken by the AIFST.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

There must be at least two applicants. Up to six finalists may be chosen from the applicants to give a presentation of their chosen topic.

Applicants must declare any sponsorship that they have received in the preparation of their submission.

Finalists must make their own travel arrangements to attend the presentation.

The AIFST reserves the right not to hold the event in any particular year if the calibre of applications is not considered sufficiently high.

APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Three judges are selected by AIFST to preferably have a background in either food microbiology, a teaching academic, or an active member of AIFST.

Judges will not be selected if there is a perceived conflict of interest with the applicants including through work or sponsorship relationships.

Finalists are chosen based on a 500-word summary of a food microbiology topic. This summary is assessed as part of the final judging.

Previous winners cannot re-apply.

The judges reserve the right not to award the prize.

METHOD OF JUDGING

The presentation time is 10 minutes with 3 minutes for questions.

The finalists are judged according to the background research of their submitted summary paper, the technical aspects of their presentation, the effectiveness of presentation, and their handling of questions.

The judges use a marking sheet to assess the criteria, and this is retained by the AIFST.

If the judges are unable to make a majority decision the decision is made by the AIFST CEO.

AWARD DATES

Date	Action	Responsible
23 November 2023	Call for nominations	AIFST
12 February 2024	Close of nominations	AIFST
13 -18 February 2024	Assessment of award submissions	Judging panel
19 February 2024	Nominees advised of outcome Successful entries invited to present to the judging panel virtually	AIFST
26 Feb – 1 March 2024	Virtual presentations to the judging panel	Successful entrants
4 March 2024	Entrants notified of judging outcome	AIFST
13 – 14 March 2024	Award presented at the Food Micro conference	AIFST