

# MICCAI Student-Author Registration (STAR) Awards

---

*Definition and Guidelines; Last Updated: June 12, 2023*

## Purpose of the Award

The MICCAI Student-Author Registration (STAR) Awards, previously known as Student Travel Awards, serve two main functions:

1. To honor the best (such as highest scoring) first author students and (starting 2024) young scientists and to subsidise their attendance to the present their work at the annual MICCAI conference.
2. To assist in building the MICCAI community by selecting early career participants from countries of lower-income countries from where fewer papers are received and the authors are typically not well funded to attend international meetings.

## Award Eligibility

If a paper is accepted to the main MICCAI conference, and the first author is a young scientist who attends the conference in person, then the author should be automatically considered for an award. There is no need for a separate application process.

Local candidates (from the host city or from a commutable region) should not be considered for a MICCAI STAR Award, because their costs are usually significantly lower than those of the international and long-distance attendees. We strongly recommend that local young scientists should be involved as support staff to receive discount registration from the Conference budget this way.

The MICCAI society definition of a young scientist is a ***candidate who is or was a student at a recognized university or degree granting institution at most two years prior to the MICCAI paper submission deadline and the work to be presented is directly based on their research degree i.e. part of a degree thesis.*** Examples of ineligible works include: the student was on an internship with a company and the company paid for the research; or that the author was still theoretically a student but did extensions of their research degree work while funded by a new (non-student) research assistantship or fellowship at their original or another institution.

Proof of young scientist status under the above definition will be requested and if challenged the final decision of eligibility will be decided by the Conference Chair in consultation with the MICCAI Society President.

A young scientist selected for an award should submit a letter from their research supervisor to confirm young scientist status. Alternatively, an email from the supervisor should be sufficient. As a practical measure, we recommend that the Chairs use the conference's paper submission website for uploading the confirmation letters.

## **Adjudication**

We recommend that some of the STAR awards are automatically given to candidates from under-represented countries. In recent years this has amounted to up to 5 awards per conference. For the definition of an under-represented country, the World Bank classification should be used to identify target countries that rank below "High-income economies" per <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>.

The rest of the awards should be distributed by paper ranking using the review score (the same score as was used for acceptance/rejection.)

In order to distribute the awards in a fair manner, we recommend to give no more than one award to any one research group (and to factor in that ideally that there is only one per university, though it is recognised that there may be different groups in any one university which may justify multipole awards per institution).

The final draft of the STAR Award list should be sent to the MICCAI Society STAR Awards Co-ordinator and Secretariat before formal notification is sent to the award recipients.

## **Timing of the Process**

The adjudication and notification process should be completed in time for the awardees to collect the supervisor's confirmation and register by the Early Bird deadline. If an awardee does not register by this deadline, the award will be withdrawn and given to the next eligible candidate.

It is recommended that the Chairs should set the deadline early enough to allow sufficient time for the international awardees to obtain a travel visa to the host country.

## **Announcement**

The awardees should be notified by email and requested to submit confirmation of young scientist status and complete registration (see above).

The final list of awardees, with their institutional affiliation, should be announced on the Conference website at the time of the conference. A summary slide about the MICCAI STAR Awards should be presented at the Award Ceremony. (Due to the large number of awardees, names are usually not listed or read out aloud.)

## **Financing**

The MICCAI Society will provide \$12,500 (US) for STAR awards annually. This amount is not part of the conference budget. It is expected but not mandated that this amount is equally matched by the conference budget to provide a total STAR award fund of \$25,000 (US).

The organizers may additionally be able to secure funds for home (non-local) or overseas young scientist to attend the conference from other sources such as Government grants. If this is the case, and a letter of support from the Society would be helpful, this can be provided by the Society STAR Awards co-ordinator. Note that this may require considerable forward planning to secure.

It is recommended that all awards will be in free registration to the main conference and its satellite events and the form of one-year MICCAI membership.

## **Collection of the Award**

Recipients of the MICCAI STAR Award will be receiving waiver codes to cover conference and satellite event registrations and one-year society membership fee. If a candidate declines an award or does not attend the conference in person, their award should go to the next candidate on the ranking list. (The award cannot be transferred to another co-author in the same research group.)

## **Queries**

Queries should be directed to the MICCAI Society Awards Coordinator.