The Australian Society for Microbiology

bringing Microbiologists together

ABN: 24 065 463 274

Application for ASM NSW-ACT Branch Summer Student Research Awards

Background

The purpose of this form is to provide enough information to enable the NSW-ACT Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology to properly assess your application.

Please Note

The individual (i.e. laboratory head or alike) sponsoring the Applicant (ie. student) must be a member of the Australian Society for Microbiology at the time of application.

Closing date for this year is:
4th December 2026

Eligibility criteria

1. Any undergraduate student who is completing studies in Microbiology or related disciplines will be eligible to apply. This includes students who are currently completing Honours or have completed Honours in the same calendar year as the award is offered. Masters by Coursework students completing studies in Microbiology or related disciplines are also encouraged to apply.

2. Sponsors (i.e., laboratory heads or alike) must have a track record in Microbiology or a related discipline, including (but not limited to) investigations of the molecular biology, biochemistry, chemistry, physiology, genomics, bioinformatics and host-pathogen interactions involving microorganisms (including the areas of food, industrial, environmental and medical microbiology), epidemiology (as this pertains to infectious disease) and immunology (as this pertains to understanding the immune response towards infectious agents).

3. Sponsors must be an ASM member at the time of application

Applications

4. Applications will consist of:

- Research project description, including
  - Project background and description;
  - Aims;
  - Methodology; and
  - References.
- Sponsor's letter of support, describing the technical assistance provided to the Applicant.
- Applicant's CV
- Applicant's Statement of Interest and Motivation

ALL documents must be formatted using 2 cm margins, 12 pt font, double spaced throughout, and comply with the page limits indicated below.

Projects that are perceived to be too general in scope or not feasible within the 4-week time frame will be less attractive for funding.

Assessment and Ranking of Applications

5. Applications will be assessed by a panel of reviewers, drawn from the ASM NSW-ACT Branch committee members. A minimum of three (3) reviewers will participate in the assessment of applications each application period. Reviewers with a conflict of interest will be excluded from participating in the assessment of those application(s).

6. Applications will be assessed and ranked using the following criteria:

- Applicant's CV (25%);
- Applicant's Statement of Interest and Motivation (25%);
- Sponsor's letter of support (25%);
- Research project description (25%).

7. A maximum of 1 award may be awarded each application round, subject to quality of the applications.

Conditions of the award

8. Report

A report on the completed summer research project must be prepared by the Applicant (i.e. student) and provided to the ASM NSW-ACT Branch committee within 1 month (i.e. 30 days) of the end of the research project, and no later than 31 March 2027.

The report must be written as a scientific paper containing the following components:

- Title;
- Abstract (**200 words**), including author name(s) (student awardee and supervisors) and affiliation(s); (see attached proforma – Appendix 1)
- Background or Introduction
- Methods and materials
- Results;
- Discussion;
- References. These must be used throughout, listed at the end of the report, and should be formatted in the style of the Journal of Bacteriology;
- **A photograph of the student**, this could be a profile picture or may depict them working in the laboratory;
- The document must be formatted using 2 cm margins, 12 pt font, double spaced throughout, and not exceed five A4 pages.

The **abstract** of the report and photo should be of sufficient standard to be publishable in the monthly eNewsletter of the ASM NSW-ACT Branch and in Microbiology Australia.

The Award

9. The successful applicant(s) will receive:

- A 1 yr free student membership to the Australian Society of Microbiology;
- A $1500 Award (the applicant will need to supply their relevant banking details to facilitate payment)

10. Payment of the Award

Payment will occur:

- After selection to be a summer research award recipient.

Note: Recipients must at the completion of their research and by the 31st March complete and submit a report as outline in 8. The report will require approval by the ASM NSW-ACT Branch committee as being of the appropriate academic standard. In cases where the report is not at the appropriate standard an awardee may be asked to revise their report. In addition, applicants need to provide an abstract and profile photo as outlined in Appendix 1.

11. Sponsors' Obligations

If the Sponsor enters into any separate and / or additional financial agreement(s) with the Applicant to fund the Applicant or the research experience, the ASM NSW-ACT Branch committee will not be held financially liable for any such separate agreements.

The Sponsor is responsible for ensuring all Occupational Health and Safety requirements of the local research environment (i.e., the University, Institute, School, Department, etc.) are completed, as required, and adequate records of their completion maintained. This includes (but is not limited to) the provision of appropriate safety training and induction, research record keeping and any relevant aspects of intellectual property pertaining to the project.

Submission of Applications

Please forward your completed application as a single .pdf document to:

Awards ASM NSW-ACT Branch:

Thiru Vanniasinkam
tvanniasinkam@csu.edu.au

And

Michael Radzieta
m.radzieta@westernsydney.edu.au

Applications close at **5pm on Friday 4th December 2026**

Part 1 Applicant Details

Name:

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Organisation:

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Postal Address:

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Telephone:

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Email:

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Mobile:

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Attach the Applicant's CV:
Include all relevant details, including the following:

- Name;
- Address;
- Employment history;
- Undergraduate transcript of marks obtained to date;
- Previous work experiences.

Attach the Applicant's Statement of Interest and Motivation (maximum one A4 page):
Include a written statement outlining:

- your career aspirations;
- your interest and motivations for pursuing this research project and Award.

Part 2 Research Project Details

Project Title:

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Date(s):

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Location:

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Attach the Research Project Description (maximum two A4 pages):

As described above, the Research project description must include

- Project background and description;
- Aims;
- Methodology; and
- References, which should be formatted in the style of the Journal of Bacteriology;
- The document must be formatted using 2 cm margins, 12 pt font, and double spaced throughout.

Part 3 Sponsor Details

Name:

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Organisation:

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Postal Address:

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Telephone:

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Email:

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Mobile:

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Attach the Sponsor's letter of support (maximum one A4 page):
Include details of any of the following (where appropriate):

- Any previous experience/contact with the Applicant (i.e. student);
- A comment on the Applicant's research abilities or aspirations;
- A statement naming who will be responsible for the daily in-lab supervision of the Applicant (i.e., a post-doc, research assistant, experienced PhD student);
- An indication of whether the methodology for the project is currently established in the laboratory.

Appendix 1 – Proforma for Summer Awards Research Abstract for Microbiology Australia

Please submit the completed proforma along with the final report.

Title of Project	
List of Authors	
Affiliations of Authors	
Abstract	200 words
Profile Photo	Please add a profile photo below.