



## Guidelines for IAIA Best Student Paper Competition (IAIA Annual Conference)

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The competition was initiated in 2010 at the initiative of IAIA's Students and Early Professional Section and Board of Directors for promoting academic and professional development in the field of impact assessment and is based on papers submitted in conjunction with presentations at the IAIA annual conference.

All student-authored papers are automatically entered into the competition.

### Eligibility

The first author of the paper must be a student who meets the following conditions.

1. The student must be currently enrolled as a graduate or undergraduate student. Proof of student status is submitted with registration and payment.
2. The student must be a member of IAIA. See [www.iaia.org](http://www.iaia.org) to confirm membership status or to join IAIA.
3. The paper or poster abstract must be accepted by the program committee.
4. The student completes the majority of the research and writing for the paper.
5. The student must attend the annual conference if his/her abstract is selected for the meeting unless extenuating circumstances prevent attendance following registration.

### Procedure

1. The contest will be announced in the preliminary program and these guidelines will be posted on the conference web site.
2. Students should follow the paper preparation and submission instructions and the deadlines provided by their session chairs upon acceptance of their abstracts.
3. Each submitted paper will be reviewed according to the general review process. Reviewers are not advised that the author is a student.
4. Per the review process, the deadline for submission of final papers is approximately three months after the conference (see paper submission and review instructions for the specific date). The Best Student Paper will be selected following the final submission of papers.
5. Authors self-identify themselves as students during abstract submission. Using this information (provided by HQ) to identify qualifying papers, the *Impact Assessment & Project Appraisal* editorial board will select the best student paper based on their reading of the papers as well as reviewers' comments. The final selection should take place by approximately one month following the deadline for final submission of papers.

## Judging Criteria

1. Is the paper significant to the field of impact assessment and the conference theme?
2. Does the paper make a theoretical contribution to impact assessment?
3. Are the issues raised addressed creatively?
4. Is literature review adequate? Are methodology, research, evidence and conclusions used appropriately and described clearly?
5. Is the writing good and the paper presented well?

## Award

The award consists of a certificate mailed to the author and a feature in the IAIA newsletter.

The winning best paper has potential to be published in IAIA's journal, *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal*, provided that it initially meets *IAPA* criteria, or is further developed following selection to conform with normal criteria for publication of any paper in *IAPA*, which are:

- I. Originality of approach or insights
- II. Validity of work reported
- III. Quality, brevity and clarity of presentation
- IV. Significance, relevance, and timeliness of the topic
- V. Adequacy of references
- VI. Appropriate messages/conclusions directed at the *IAPA* audience

Publication in *IAPA* may be through the form of a special feature paper, in line with the professional practice section of the journal.

Second- and third-rated student papers may also be considered for publication in *IAPA*, provided they also show high quality research and meet the above criteria.

A Best Student Paper may not be awarded if the editorial board determines that the papers received are not of sufficient quality or if too few (less than five) papers are eligible for the competition.