Student Travel Scholarship Program

1. Purpose and Background

The Poultry Industry Food Safety Council (PIFSCo) unites all segments of the poultry industry — breeder, broiler, duck, layer and turkey — to develop and share science-based strategies for addressing food safety challenges. As part of its mission to identify research gaps and promote continuous improvement in food safety practices, PIFSCo has established a Student Travel Scholarship Program to support the next generation of food safety researchers.

The program will provide travel scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students who are presenting original research related to food safety in the poultry industry at approved scientific conferences/meetings:

- International Poultry Scientific Forum (IPSF),
- International Association of Food Protection (IAFP),
- Poultry Science Association (PSA),
- American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP), and
- Others approved by the PIFSCo Executive Board and/or the PIFSCo Scholarship Review Committee.

By funding student travel and participation, PIFSCo aims to strengthen the pipeline of researchers and future professionals engaged in poultry food safety, increase visibility of student research within the industry, and build early relationships between students and PIFSCo member organizations.

2. Program Overview

- **Program name:** PIFSCo Student Travel Scholarship
- **Number of scholarships available**: Four (4) per year
- **Award amount per recipient:** $1,500 (max)
- **Total program budget:** $6,000
- **Funding source:** PIFSCo general fund

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a PIFSCo Student Travel Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited college or university in the 50-states, territories, and Washington, D.C.
- Be the presenting author of an accepted poster or oral presentation at an approved scientific conference/meeting.

- Present original research on a food safety topic relevant to the poultry industry, including but not limited to the breeder, broiler, duck, layer and turkey sectors (e.g., pathogen control, Listeria/Salmonella/Campylobacter management, sanitation and antimicrobial interventions, environmental monitoring, process validation, food safety culture, or emerging detection technologies in poultry processing).
- Provide proof of abstract acceptance from the approved scientific conference/meeting at the time of application.
- Recipients will only be eligible for one (1) award, with the exception that a recipient who received an award during their undergraduate studies may be eligible again during their graduate studies.

4. Award Details

Each scholarship is intended to offset costs directly associated with attending and presenting at a scientific meeting, and thus may be used for any or all the following, up to the maximum individual award ($1,500):

- Round-trip travel costs (airfare or mileage) to approved scientific conference/meeting;
- Hotel accommodation for the duration of the approved scientific conference/meeting;
- Approved scientific conference/meeting registration fees;
- Ground transportation and incidental travel expenses; and/or
- Daily meals (up to $50 per day).

PIFSCo does not guarantee that the scholarship award will cover all costs, expenses, or fees incurred by the recipient.

Recipients will not receive funding until after attending the approved scientific conference/meeting. Reimbursement will be provided via a check mailed to the award recipient following submission of receipts.

5. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit a complete application package in a single PDF that includes all of the following:

- Completed PIFSCo Student Travel Scholarship application form (*see* Appendix).
- Copy of accepted abstract, including confirmation of poster or oral presentation format. If the abstract has not yet been accepted, a copy of the pending abstract must be submitted for evaluation. Acceptance must be confirmed prior to payout of the award.
- Current CV or resume.
- Brief personal statement (250–500 words) describing the research and its relevance to poultry food safety and the anticipated financial need.
- Letter of support from a faculty advisor confirming enrollment status and endorsing the application.
- Estimated travel budget and cost estimate.
- W-9 expense form (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf)
- There will be two rounds of applications per year:

- Round 1: Application deadline by December 1, to be considered for an approved scientific conference/meeting held between January 1 and May 31 of the following year; and
- Round 2: Application deadline by May 1, to be considered for an approved scientific conference/meeting held between June 1 and December 31.

- Award recipients and all other applicants will be notified approximately three weeks after the deadlines have passed.

6. Selection Process and Criteria

Applications will be reviewed and scored by the PIFSCo Scholarship Review Committee, composed of

- Three PIFSCo Executive Board members and two academic members selected by the PIFSCo Executive Board Chairperson.
- Each application will be evaluated using the following rubric:

Rubric	*4 – Excellent*	*3 – Above Average*	*2 – Average*	*1 – Below Average*
Overall Application	*Application is complete, and all materials are excellent*	*Application is complete and most materials are above average*	*Application is mostly complete, with materials of variable quality*	*Application is incomplete, and/or most materials are of poor quality*
Academics	*Overall GPA > 3.7*	*Overall GPA 3.5-3.7*	*Overall GPA 3.3-3.5*	*Overall GPA <3.3*
Research Statement	*Proposed research is well presented and is highly relevant to industry needs*	*Proposed research is well presented, with potential relevance to industry needs*	*Proposed research is either not well presented or is likely not relevant to industry needs*	*Proposed research is not well presented and is not likely relevant to industry needs*
Career Statement	*Statement is written at a high level and clearly indicates an excellent fit for the program*	*Statement is well-written and indicates a potentially good fit for the program*	*Statement is either poorly written or fails to convey fit for the program*	*Statement is poorly written and fails to convey fit for the program*
CV	*Demonstrates previous commitment to research in poultry*	*Demonstrates previous commitment to research but not necessarily directly in poultry*	*Limited research experience (i.e., no project)*	*Little or no previous research experience*
Recommendation	*Recommendation indicates outstanding fit for the program*	*Recommendation indicates potentially good (but not perfect) fit for the program*	*Recommendation indicates neither good nor poor fit for the program*	*Recommendation is missing or indicates application is not fit for the program*

7. Recipient Obligations

Scholarship recipients will be expected to:

- Present research as scheduled at the approved scientific conference/meeting and acknowledge PIFSCo's support in their presentation materials. While not required, usage of the PIFSCo logo, in compliance with the PIFSCo Logo Usage Terms and Conditions, is encouraged.
- Submit travel expense documentation to **PIFSCO@PIFSCO.org** within thirty (30) days following the recipient's return from the approved scientific conference/meeting for reimbursement.
- Unless otherwise expressly disclaimed in writing to the PIFSCo Executive Board Chairperson, a recipient of a PIFSCo Travel Scholarship award grants PIFSCo permission to use the recipient's name, image, and other photos in PIFSCo social media and online announcements.
- Provide a brief written or verbal summary of their approved scientific conference/meeting experience to the PIFSCo Executive Board, to be used in PIFSCo communications and/or marketing materials.
- Participate in a PIFSCo webinar within a year of the approved scientific conference/meeting to present research to PIFSCo members.

Appendix: Student Travel Scholarship Application Form

Complete every section of this Student Travel Scholarship application form and submit it as the first page of your single PDF application package, together with all other items listed in the Application Requirements (*see* section 5 above). Incomplete applications may be scored lower as detailed in the Selection Process and Criteria (*see* section 6 above).

A. Applicant Information

Full legal name		**Email address**	
Phone number		**Mailing address (for reimbursement check)**	
College or university		**Department / program**	
Degree level	☐ Undergraduate ☐ Graduate (Master's, J.D., etc.) ☐ Graduate (Ph.D.)		
Expected graduation date		**Overall GPA**	
Faculty advisor name		**Faculty advisor email**	

B. Conference and Presentation

Application round	☐ Round 1 (Deadline December 1; conference between January 1 and May 31 of the following year) ☐ Round 2 (Deadline May 1; conference between June 1 and December 31)
Approved scientific conference/meeting	☐ International Poultry Scientific Forum (IPSF) ☐ International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) ☐ Poultry Science Association (PSA) ☐ American Association of Avian Pathologists (AAAP) ☐ Other (approved by the PIFSCo Executive Board and/or Scholarship Review Committee): _____
Conference dates	
Conference location (city, state)	
Presentation title	
Presentation format	☐ Poster ☐ Oral ☐ Other
Presenting author	☐ I am the presenting author of this poster or oral presentation.
Abstract status	☐ Accepted (acceptance confirmation attached) ☐ Submitted, acceptance pending (submitted abstract attached; acceptance must be confirmed if I receive the award)

Poultry food safety topic area	*(Briefly identify the food safety topic and sector(s), e.g., Salmonella control in broilers.)*
Previous PIFSCo Travel Scholarship	☐ No ☐ Yes — level of study and year awarded: _____

C. Estimated Travel Budget

Estimate the costs you expect to incur. Awards are limited to a maximum of $1,500 and are paid by reimbursement after the conference, upon submission of receipts. PIFSCo does not guarantee that the award will cover all costs, expenses, or fees – you may be responsible for some costs yourself.

Expense category	**Estimated cost (USD)**
Round-trip travel (airfare or mileage)	
Hotel accommodation	
Conference registration fees	
Ground transportation and incidental travel expenses	
Daily meal per diem (up to $50 per day) - number of days: _____	
Total estimated cost	
Amount requested from PIFSCo (maximum $1,500)	
Other funding sources and amounts (e.g., department, advisor, other awards)	

D. Application Package Checklist

Submit all of the following in a single PDF. Check each item to confirm it is included.

Included	**Required item**
☐	Completed PIFSCo Student Travel Scholarship application form
☐	Copy of accepted abstract, including confirmation of poster or oral presentation format (or the submitted abstract, if not yet accepted)
☐	Current CV or resume
☐	Personal statement (250–500 words) describing the research, its relevance to poultry food safety, and the anticipated financial need
☐	Letter of support from a faculty advisor confirming enrollment status and endorsing the application
☐	Estimated travel budget and cost estimate (section C of this form)
☐	Completed W-9 (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf)

E. Applicant Certification and Acknowledgements

☐ I certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete, that I am currently enrolled as an undergraduate or graduate student at an accredited college or university in the 50 states, territories, or Washington, D.C., and that I am the presenting author of the research described above.

☐ I understand that I will not receive funding until after I attend the approved scientific conference/meeting, that reimbursement will be made by check following submission of receipts, and that PIFSCo does not guarantee the award will cover all of my costs.

☐ If I receive an award, I agree to the Recipient Obligations detailed in section 7, including presenting my research as scheduled and acknowledging PIFSCo's support, submitting travel expense documentation within thirty (30) days of my return, providing a brief summary of my conference experience, and participating in a PIFSCo webinar within the year.

☐ I grant PIFSCo permission to use my name, image, and photos in PIFSCo social media and online announcements, unless I expressly disclaim this permission in writing to the PIFSCo Executive Board Chairperson.

Applicant signature	
Printed name	
Date	

F. Submission

Submit the completed application package (single PDF) by the applicable deadline (Round 1 – December 1, or Round 2 – May 1) to **PIFSCO@PIFSCO.org**. Award notifications will be communicated approximately three (3) weeks after the deadlines.