

APORS Young Researcher Best Paper Award Guideline 2026

Policy

A maximum of three papers will be awarded each year as **APORS Young Researcher Best Papers**, in the following categories:

- **Theoretical and Computational Research.**
- **Practical Application.**
- **Collaborative Research**, for papers co-authored by individuals from at least two different APORS member societies, to promote collaboration among APORS members.

Moreover, a maximum of three papers will be awarded as APORS Young Researcher Best Papers Runner Up.

The awards are presented annually, either at each APORS Triennial Conference or at APORS Youth Forums held between two APORS conferences. It is open to young researchers aged 40 or under (born after **30 July 1986**) and is based on a research paper in any area of Operational Research.

Nominated candidates are required to present their related research work in the APORS Triennial Conference or the APORS Youth Forum. Failure to attend will result in ineligibility of the award, except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the APORS Officers.

Award

Each awardee will receive a certificate of recognition. As an exceptional opportunity for academic recognition, prize winners will also be invited to extend the work of their award-winning papers and publish their monographs through Springer. This distinguished platform provides a valuable channel to disseminate their research to a broader audience, thereby contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field of Operational Research.

Eligibility

Entries must consist of research papers published in a peer-reviewed journal within a specified time frame, typically between two and three years prior to the award year. For example, the **APORS Young Researcher Best Paper Award 2026** will consider research papers published in 2023 and 2024. At least the nominee must be a qualified young member of an APORS member society.

Applications

All applications must be submitted by the nominating society to the APORS President via email at **H.Xu@curtin.edu.au** by the deadline specified in the announcement.

To be eligible for consideration, candidate papers must be formally nominated by an APORS member society. Each member society may nominate a maximum of twelve papers (four papers for each category). The nominator for each research paper must provide the jury with the following materials, preferably in electronic format:

1. The “APORS Young Researcher Best Paper Award 2026 Nomination Summary Sheet” (Attachment 2) must be completed for all nominated papers.
2. A full copy of the published paper, written in English, with precise keywords. The nomination must clearly indicate the award category applied for: *Theoretical or Computational Research*, *Practical Application*, or *Collaborative Research*.
3. Two letters (or reports) from professional referees selected by the nominating society, supporting the nomination and providing an assessment of why the paper merits the award.
4. An up-to-date CV of the candidate, including a complete list of publications.

Nominations that do not include all of the above items will not be considered.

Selection jury

The Selection Jury shall consist of five members of recognized stature within the Asia-Pacific Operations Research community. Efforts shall be made to ensure that the jury is representative of the diverse fields within Operations Research. Jury members are generally recommended by the APORS Officers.

If any jury member has, or has had, a personal or professional relationship with a nominee that could reasonably be perceived as influencing the selection process for reasons other than the merits of the nomination, it is that member’s responsibility to disclose such a conflict of interest to the Jury Chair. The Jury Chair shall propose and implement an appropriate course of action to ensure that the final decision of the jury is free from any conflict of interest.

Selection process

At most six awards (three winners and three runner-ups) may be made on each occasion in general. The jury takes the following criteria into account:

- Originality and novelty of the subject;
- Pertinence of the subject for Operations Research;
- Depth and breadth of the results;
- Contributions of the paper to the theory and practice of Operations Research;
- Applications and/or potential applicability of the results;
- Impact on related fields;
- Quality of the related publications.