



Safety Sciences Group

Student research competition

IOSH's Safety Sciences Group (SSG) would like to improve the opportunities for disseminating BSc and MSc project work by using the annual conference as a forum for presenting students' research.

The IOSH 07 Conference organising committee and SSG are running a competition for the best academic research project in the field of occupational safety and health by BSc and MSc students. We're asking students to submit a one-page abstract of their research work. We'll then ask the 10 best entrants to create a poster for display in the exhibition area of the IOSH Conference in Telford on 27–28 March 2007.

The prize

The 10 entrants we select to present a poster will be invited to attend the conference exhibition and spotlight theatre presentations. The two best entrants will receive complimentary passes for the full conference programme and their certificates will be presented by the IOSH president. They'll also be asked to give a presentation supporting their submission at a date and venue to be arranged.

Submission criteria

We're inviting universities to ask their three best candidates to submit their work. We'll consider additional submissions on their merits. We're looking for work which, in the university's opinion, represents the best practical or theoretical contribution to the evidence base of any aspect of health and safety. This could mean either a thorough academic study of existing practices or theories, or innovative approaches and valuable developmental work.

Applications must be submitted electronically in a standard abstract format, such as:

- introduction – why you did the work
- methods – how you did the work
- results – what you found
- discussion – what the results mean.

We appreciate that some projects won't lend themselves to this approach, and we'll consider other formats where appropriate.

Abstracts should be no longer than one side of A4.

The adjudicating panel and assessment criteria

The SSG committee will choose the winners. As we want to receive entries from a wide range of interests and approaches, we're not setting specific criteria for the award. Each member of the panel will rank the submissions, and entrants with the highest aggregate scores will be asked to produce posters.

The assessment criteria will include:

- structure, layout and presentation
- justification of the need for the research

- clarity of methodology and results/findings
- implications of the findings for health and safety
- originality.

Competition timetable

Please submit abstracts electronically to Petrina Beck, SSG administrator, at petrina.beck@iosh.co.uk by **24 November 2006**. We'll tell all candidates the outcome of their entry by 05 January 2007. Candidates asked to prepare posters need to confirm by 31 January that they'll be attending the conference.

Guidance for posters

We're looking for posters of the highest calibre that use excellent visual display techniques. Posters should be no bigger than 95cm wide by 234cm high.

Posters should be attractive and easy to read, and should aim to give a clear overview of the project. Ideally they should include:

- the reason for and background to the study
- the project's aims, focus or research questions
- a summary of the methods used
- a presentation of the results.

Some useful tips:

- use a font and text size that are easy to read
- break up long paragraphs by using bullet points
- consider using one or two graphs, charts or pictures where appropriate
- conversely, don't include unnecessary items – remember your research is the most important information
- proof-read your text for spelling and grammatical errors
- if you're planning to distribute handouts, make this clear on the poster
- consider having your poster laminated.

We're asking everyone who presents a poster to attend their work during all conference breaks, so that they can answer any questions.

Research and development at IOSH

IOSH is keen to help develop an evidence base for health and safety policy and practice, and to encourage innovation. We've established a research and development fund to support those who share this aim.

The objectives of the fund are:

- to encourage research designed to be of use in health and safety practice worldwide, and specifically for the promotion and implementation of systematic and organised methods of improving health and safety as a critical contribution to public wellbeing
- to encourage, consider, fund and monitor new ideas that will enable IOSH to take advantage of strategic opportunities in support of its vision of a world of work that is safe, healthy and sustainable.

IOSH research fund

There's a two-stage process for allocating research funds to applicants. Awards are granted to successful EU-based candidates who are able to demonstrate a consistent record in high-quality research. Grants will normally be of up to £100,000, though we may consider larger sums in exceptional cases.

Overview of the application process:

- read the current 'call for bids' statement at www.iosh.co.uk/index.cfm?go=funds.callforbids. We usually post a new call for bids in the first quarter of each year
- if your project proposal meets all the requirements, complete the Stage 1 form and send it to us – we'll send you an acknowledgement by email
- the IOSH Research Committee will then decide which applications should progress to Stage 2
- we'll tell all applicants of the committee's decision, and we'll invite successful bidders to submit a Stage 2 application (we'll give guidelines on this at the time)
- the Stage 2 applications will be reviewed by two independent assessors, who'll recommend to the committee which projects are suitable for funding. We'll invite these candidates to make a short presentation and discuss their proposal with the committee
- we'll tell all applicants what the committee's decision is and, if you're successful, we'll send the research contract to your university or other institution.

IOSH development fund

Funding is available to **IOSH members** or groups of members to fund the development of an initiative or project that furthers the aims of the IOSH corporate plan, and/or will bring significant benefits to IOSH and to health and safety. In addition, we'll consider supporting feasibility studies that may lead to the development of such an initiative.

Applications may be submitted at any time.

The decision to grant development funds is a single-stage process. The awards will normally be up to £5,000, though we may consider larger grants in exceptional cases.

If you're interested in applying for IOSH funding for a development project:

- discuss your idea with Mary Ogungbeje, research and development fund co-ordinator, or Dr Luise Vassie, research and technical services manager, who'll offer some general advice on how you can take your idea further
- complete the development fund application form and send it to us – we'll send you an acknowledgement by email.

We'll then assess your application and report on its suitability for funding to the Board of Trustees. We'll tell all applicants what the Board's decision is.

If you'd like to discuss your research and development ideas or need more information about the application process, please contact Mary Ogungbeje, research and development fund co-ordinator, or Dr Luise Vassie, research and technical services manager, on +44 (0)116 257 3100 or email rdfunding@iosh.co.uk.