

2026 AABB Future Leader Scholarship SBB Scholarship Awards Program

Policy Statement

The AABB Future Leader SBB (or equivalent) Scholarship Awards are made available annually to promote interest in research, development and continuing education in the field of blood banking. Any individual enrolled, accepted for enrollment in, or has recently completed (in the preceding 24 months of the time of application for this award) a program leading to Specialist in Blood Banking or equivalent certification (see table) in an AABB accredited institution may apply. Applications are available online and may be in one of three categories:

1. Scientific paper reporting experimental work. The work may be an original concept, extension of a major concept or application of a procedure or concept in: transfusion practice, blood utilization, hematopoietic transplantation, blood collections and processing, blood donor recruitment and safety, donor or therapeutic apheresis, hemostasis, cellular therapies, regenerative medicine or other transfusion medicine topics.
2. Analytical or interpretational review on transfusion medicine topics suitable for publication in a professional journal.
3. Innovative educational syllabus on transfusion medicine topics using traditional or advanced technology modalities.

An applicant may have received some ideas and guidance in outline, scope and content from peers, instructors, supervisors, previously existing literature, or other sources. However, all other work, including critical review of the literature, performance of tests, writing of the report, and final decisions on all editing and revisions of the report will be the applicant's. The 2025 AABB Future Leader award recipients' papers are available for reference purposes only, under the header "2025 AABB–Future Leader SBB (or equivalent) Scholarship Award Program." The staff liaison to the TMSCC at the AABB National Office should be contacted if there is any question about eligibility.

All application submissions:

- Must be received no later than August 7, 2026
- Must be submitted electronically
- Must not have been submitted for peer review to any medical or scientific journals prior to this submission
- Must be no longer than 3,000 words on a subject pertaining to blood banking or a related field
- Must be submitted with a version completely devoid of any and all identification, this includes any names of individuals or facilities involved in the study
- Must include an abstract of no more than 250 words
- May include attachments such as video, website or other novel technologies as supplements to the original paper.

An application submission deadline date of **August 7, 2026** has been established for each year of competition – including this year for the 2026 AABB Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Entries received after this date will be considered in the following year's scholarship competition. Please note that electronic copies of your scientific paper and your application forms will be required. Entries must be electronically received by the National Office on or before August 7, 2026.

Entries must be less than 3,000 words on a subject pertaining to blood banking or a related field. **Papers over 3,000 words, excluding abstract, tables and figures, references, video, websites and other novel technologies, will be disqualified.** AABB follows the Vancouver editorial style for manuscript and reference.

Scientific papers should describe materials and methods used, including experimental design, in sufficient detail to enable other scientists to evaluate or duplicate your work. Reviews should analyze or interpret the subject and not just restate the literature. Educational entries should include a brief summary reviewing the need for the program, how the program is innovative, and a list of references. The submission should include an abstract of not more than 250 words. **EDIT AND PROOFREAD CAREFULLY. SUBMIT THE ORIGINAL AND FINAL VERSION.** Retain a copy for your files.

The paper itself must not in any way identify the applicant or any other individual or facility that may compromise the anonymity of the submission. It is requested that applicants submit two copies of their paper; the first with a title page that includes title, applicant name, facility affiliation, and other identifying information. and the second with a title page that includes the title **ONLY**. Decisions of the evaluation committee are final. Grades and evaluation comments are confidential and are not available for distribution.

Applicants may submit more than one entry; however, no student may receive more than one award. The scholarship awards are presented at the 2026 AABB Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia at the Transfusion Medicine Subsection Coordinating Committee Business Meeting. All individuals selected for a scholarship are expected to present at the TMSCC Business Meeting on their project as a part of their acceptance of the award. Payment will be made after the winners have completed the SBB Program. All entries remain the property of the AABB and entries are accepted only with the understanding that the work has not been published or printed elsewhere without prior approval of the AABB. This permission will be granted in all cases, but the applicant must request approval in writing through the AABB National Office.

Understanding that all entries are property of AABB, AABB has the rights to post the 2025 winning manuscripts on the AABB Web site as an educational resource for future, interested applicants to the program. For any questions, please contact the Standards Department at standards@aabb.org.

Submit your entry and the AABB Future Leader SBB Scholarship Application forms by **August 7, 2026**, to the following address:

AABB Future Leader SBB Scholarship Award Program
 Attn: Standards Department
 AABB
 4550 Montgomery Avenue
 Suite 700, North Tower
 Bethesda, MD 20814-2749
standards@aabb.org

SBB Equivalent Certification Table

National Certification	Education	Certification
Canada Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science www.csmls.org	5 yrs. Experience/ education + exam	ART-CSMLS in Immuno- hematology
United Kingdom Institute of Biomedical Science www.aibms.org	2 yrs. training + 5 yrs experience + exam (old)	FIBMS in Immuno- hematology
Australia Australian Institute of Medical Scientists www.aims.org.au	5 yrs. experience + examination or thesis	FAIMS in Blood Transfusion
New Zealand New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences www.nzimls.org.nz	2 yrs. experience + certification exam and dissertation	FNZIMLS in Transfusion Science