

**GUIDELINES**  
**NAJUA Graduate Student Paper Competition**  
**Ver. November 2011**

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Purpose:

1. To encourage and promote scientific research and scholarship of graduate student members of NAJUA in science and engineering, such as food science and technology.
2. To recognize the quality of research and presentations by graduate students.

Criteria and Procedures:

1. The competition is open to all graduate students (M.S. and Ph.D.) studying in North America as well as at Jiangnan University. However, all contestants must be NAJUA members at the time of paper competition.
2. Papers (i.e., extended abstracts – see below) submitted for the competition must be from original research conducted primarily by the graduate students, and must have not been presented or published elsewhere. Previously published studies will not be accepted for the competition.
3. Each graduate contestant is allowed to submit only one paper.
4. The graduate student must be the primary author (usually the first author) of the paper.
5. Unless arranged otherwise by NAJUA, the paper competition will be held during the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), specifically, at the NAJUA annual meeting/banquet.
6. The deadline for paper submission is May 1. Papers submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.
7. Five judges, who are current NAJUA members appointed by the NAJUA President and approved by the Executive Committee, shall evaluate all submitted papers.
8. A maximum of six (6) papers (semi-finalists), selected by the judges two weeks prior to the IFT meeting, will be invited to be presented at the NAJUA annual meeting/banquet as POSTER presentations. Originality and quality of the research and clarity of writing will be the primary factors considered for the invitation.
9. The semi-finalists will be responsible for setting up the posters prior to the NAJUA meeting, and will answer questions from the judges during the review process at the NAJUA meeting.
10. Three (3) finalists will be selected through voting by the judges to receive “**NAJUA Best Graduate Paper Awards**”. Quality of the posters, ability to satisfactorily answer judges’ questions, in addition to originality and quality of the research itself, will be the main evaluation criteria.
11. Winners of the graduate paper competition will be announced at the NAJUA annual meeting/banquet. Each winner will receive a certificate and a \$100 monetary award.

12. Instructions for preparation of competition papers (extended abstracts):
  - a. Each paper must consist of a total of four (4) pages, including the title page, all written in English and double spaced.
  - b. On the title page (first page), provide the title of the paper, names of all authors and their affiliations, and the contact information (phone, email) of the graduate student.
  - c. Each paper must contain the following five components. Tables and graphs are optional but if presented, they must fit in the 3-page limit.
    - Introduction
    - Methodology
    - Results and Discussion
    - Conclusions
    - References (up to 5 refs).
  - d. Submit papers through email to the Chair of the Graduate Student Paper Competition Committee: Gary Hou, email: [ghou@wmcinc.org](mailto:ghou@wmcinc.org).
13. Instruction for preparation of posters (only applicable to finalists):
  - a. The poster must be sized to within 3 feet tall by 5 feet wide. A typical poster size is 36 inch tall and 56 inch wide.
  - b. The text and illustrations must be readable by viewers from a distance of about three feet or more.
  - c. Text material should be printed from a laser printer with a font size large enough to read from this distance.
  - d. For specific reference guidelines, please refer to IFT “**Poster Presentation Guidelines**” under “[Guidelines for Technical Research Papers](http://www.am-fe.ift.org/cms)”, which is located at <http://www.am-fe.ift.org/cms>.