



RMBS Contest Rules

Student Awards

The judges for the written awards will be RMBS board members and non-members as appointed by the Program Chair to help judge the paper submissions.

The judges for the presentation and poster awards will be selected from the RMBS board members present at the conference.

General awards (the first place awards will be named after one of the RMBS founding fathers):

- Written Award: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Presentation Award: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Poster Award: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

Special awards (one each):

- President's Award
- Program Chair's Award
- Student Contest Chair's Award
- Anthony Sances Jr. Award of Merit

Professional Awards

The judges for these competitions will be any student present at the conference

- **Best presentation**
- **Best poster**

Since every paper gets judged and scored before being accepted for publication in the proceedings, a **Best paper** award will be given to the highest scoring paper based on the aforementioned peer-review process.

General Rules

1. To compete for ANY award, a FULL PAPER must be submitted and accepted by the Program Chair.
2. To be included in the Student Contest, the first author of the paper MUST have been a student when the research was done and at the time of the conference. Everybody else will be entered in the Professional Contest.
3. Inclusion in the Contest is not automatic: the appropriate checkbox must be marked on the registration form accompanying the paper submission. Failure to check the appropriate box at the time of registration will be grounds for disqualification from the contests.
4. To be eligible for the Student Contest additional information is required on the registration form: the program in which each of the student authors is enrolled (undergraduate, Master, or Doctoral) and the student's graduation date.
5. The Student Written Awards will be given to the first author of the selected papers, while the Presentation and Poster Awards will be given to the student presenting. If different than the first author, it is responsibility of the presenting student to give to the RMBS Contest Chair at the beginning of the conference the program in which the student is enrolled (undergraduate, Master, or Doctoral) and their graduation date, or they will be excluded from the contest.
6. It is not necessary for the students to be at the Awards Ceremony to be eligible for the award itself, but unless the student has a valid reason for not being present, **the students MUST be at the Awards Ceremony to receive the money associated with the award.** If a student is not present at the ceremony and has no valid reason, he/she will receive only the Award certificate and a pre-registration coupon for the next conference, whereas the money will return to the Student Contest Fund. If the student has a valid reason for not being at the Awards Ceremony (e.g., prearranged travel plans, or incoming project deadlines and/or final exams), the attendance requirement is waived and the student would receive the money associated with the award. **The student MUST however notify in advance the Contest Chair of his or her impossibility to attend the Awards Ceremony to still be eligible for the money associated with the award.** The decision to accept or reject the student's valid reason will be the Contest Chair's.
7. The professionals will get only the Award Certificate; no money will be associated with these awards.

Comments for the Student Contest

1. The awards are **independent of each other** with the exception of the Special Awards, so it is possible to *win more than one award*. **The Special Awards are given to students who do not win any other awards.**
2. If the quality of a competition is lower than expected, the Contest Chair reserves the right not to present one or more of the awards.
3. The amount of money for each award is decided yearly based on the available funds for the Student Contest. To increase the number of students coming back year after year, **each award includes a paid pre-registration** for the following year's conference, redeemable only by the winning student (**it is not transferable**). The amount of money needed to cover these pre-registrations is set aside each year and is added to the funds available for the following year's conference. The amount of money spent each year to cover the previous year's pre-registrations is subtracted from the funds for the Student Contest before the conference start and the amount of money for each award is decided based on the money left after covering the pre-registrations.
4. The amount of money is divided so that all first place awards get the same amount of money, second places get less money than the first place but more than third, and the special awards receive the same award amount as a second place winner.
5. Any Board Member can participate in ranking the students' presentations for an award. However, faculty will not rank student presentations from their own school.
6. The President, the Program Chair, the Contest Chair, and the judge in charge of the Anthony Sances Jr. Award of Merit select at least five possible nominees in rank order for their awards, and the Student Chair selects the winner as the first name on their list that has not yet won an award.
7. At least three independent judges will be appointed for the Poster competition: they talk to each student and select the winners, providing the names of the winners to the Contest Chair. The identity of these judges shall be unknown to the poster presenters.

Comments for the Professional Contest

1. Every student present at the conference will be encouraged to participate as a judge of the Professional Contest.
2. As an incentive, a **paid pre-registration** for the following year's conference, redeemable only by the winning professional (**it is not transferable**), may be included, if funding is available.