

2021 GIA Awards for Excellence Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Call for Entries Opens: September 9, 2020, 10:00 am Eastern
Entry Deadline: November 6, 2020, 5:00 pm Eastern

- Why should I submit my project, program, or publication?
 - Awards for Excellence winners receive national recognition for their creative and effective approaches in promoting academic medicine. The AAMC highlights the award-winning entries in publications and social media, notifies each institution's leaders, and recognizes the winners during the AAMC Conference for Institutional Advancement each spring or during a special Virtual Awards Ceremony.
 - Another significant benefit of participation in the Awards for Excellence program is constructive feedback. Every submission to the program is evaluated by a set of experienced advancement professionals, whose comments are shared with the submitter. Program participants have said that they value this honest feedback and use it to improve future programs and projects.
 - The act of preparing an award submission is a valuable exercise too. Consider a team approach to crafting your submission narrative, starting with a conversation and review of the overall strategy and goals, the approach you took, the tools you selected, and the evaluation of the outcomes.
 - Additionally, award recipients, recognized for their expertise or innovation, are often tapped to share their successful programs and projects at conferences and may serve as future award program judges.
- Is there an entry eligibility time-frame?
 - Yes, all submissions for the 2021 Awards for Excellence competition must have taken place between April 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.
- What is the entry fee? How can I pay?
 - The early bird entry fee is \$40 valid from September 9-October 7. The standard entry fee is \$50 from October 8-November 6. Entry fees must be paid online at the time of entry via credit card only: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or Discover. You will receive a payment confirmation and receipt via email once confirmed. We cannot accept checks. Entry fees are nonrefundable.
- Is there a page limit for the narrative?
 - Yes, your narrative should be double-spaced; Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri 12-point font; and no more than four (4) pages in length. Judges have a brief amount of time to review each entry, so please be concise.

GIA Awards for Excellence

Frequently Asked Questions

- How do I submit my entry?

All entries must be submitted via [an online portal](#). You may locate the online portal and other valuable information about the competition via the [GIA Awards for Excellence website](#). **Please do not mail submissions to AAMC headquarters.**
- How do I upload my supporting documents to the online portal?
 - The narrative and all supporting entry materials must be uploaded into the [online portal](#) through the task titled “Attach Narrative and Supporting Documents.” Upload your files in the corresponding section.
- Can I have an extension on the submission deadline?
 - Please note that this year, the submission window is three weeks longer. To be fair to all contestants, we are unable to extend the deadline. The online submission system closes at 5:00 pm Eastern on November 6, 2020; entries cannot be entered after the deadline.
- When will I receive notification about my entry?
 - You will be notified in writing in January 2021 of the judges’ decision about the status of your submission. Regardless of the decision, all participants will receive constructive comments from the judging panel.
- I won! Now what?
 - Congratulations—winning an Award for Excellence is a national honor! All Awards for Excellence winners receive an award certificate or plaque. Awardees are also recognized—
 - All Awards for Excellence winners receive an award certificate, plaque, or trophy. Awardees are also recognized—
 - At the annual AAMC Conference for Institutional Advancement virtual event or during a special Awards for Excellence Virtual Celebration.
 - In GIA publications and social media.
 - Via a letter from AAMC leadership to the awardees’ institutional leadership.
 - In addition, Gold winners will receive a free AAMC Conference for Institutional Advancement registration for the 2021 conference or a \$1,000 donation to their institution’s scholarship fund. “Pandemic Pivot” and Best in Show winners will receive a free AAMC Conference for Institutional Advancement registration for the 2022 conference or a \$1,000 donation to their institution’s scholarship fund. The prize will be decided by the GIA Steering Committee in 2021. Institutions will decide for themselves who can use the free registration or which scholarship fund at their institution is designated, to be facilitated by the official points of contact of the award-winning submissions.
 - All 2021 winners will be notified in writing in January 2021, except Best in Show and the “Pandemic Pivot,” which will be announced at the AAMC Conference for Institutional Advancement or during a Virtual Awards Celebration. Awards for Excellence recipients are required to provide photographs and additional information about the winning entry for awards displays and in GIA publications.