



EMERGING NURSE RESEARCHER/SCHOLAR AWARD

PURPOSE

The Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award recognizes an early career nurse researcher/scholar **from each of Sigma’s seven global regions** whose research/scholarship has influenced the nursing profession and the people it serves.

Sigma membership is required.

For the purpose of this award, the following definitions apply:

- **Research:** Completed systematic process of studious investigation that increases the knowledge or understanding on a topic or issue
- **Scholarship:** Completed work, product, and/or outcome indicative of the generation, synthesis, translation, application, and dissemination of knowledge that aims to improve and/or transform health

ELIGIBILITY

All **active Sigma members** worldwide who completed and earned a **master’s or doctoral degree** after **1 December 2020 and through 1 December 2025** are eligible for this award. This information must be included in the submission materials.

Members may self-nominate but are required to submit an additional narrative from a supporting nominator. Current Sigma Board of Directors, Sigma elected international committee members, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are not eligible to receive this award, serve as nominators, or write letters of support. Members of appointed committees may participate in the award process.

CRITERIA

Nomination should show evidence of meeting a majority of the following criteria:

1. Research/scholarly output has had an impact in an area, country, or global region on the profession of nursing, healthcare, patients, families, community, and/or policy.
2. Nominee has a record of disseminating research results/related scholarly output in professional nursing and/or non-nursing publications and oral and/or poster presentations.
3. Nominee has received organizational support, such as funding and/or access to related material or people resources to support related projects.
4. Nominee is recognized as an early career investigator/scholar and/or emerging leader whose work is influencing policy, clinical practice, education, leadership, research, and/or utilization of evidence.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Supporting documents required below should address a majority of the above criteria. All materials must be submitted in English. Entries that do not meet the criteria and submission requirements will be disqualified. A complete online nomination consists of:

- Online entry form and payment
- Self-narrative from the nominee clearly describing area of emerging interest and scope using the four criteria listed above as subheadings (1-2 pages)
- Narrative from the supporting nominator, clearly describing area of emerging interest and scope using the four criteria listed above as subheadings (1-2 pages)
- Two letters of support using the above criteria from a collaborator, interprofessional colleague, supervisor, coworker, etc. (excluding the supporting nominator)

Sigma may contact sources for letters of support and nomination.

- Nominee’s curriculum vitae
- A listing of 3-5 publications/evidence of dissemination and/or successfully implemented projects that showcases the above criteria. Do not submit full articles.
- Letter of acceptance: Statement from the nominee accepting the award nomination and agreeing to attend Sigma’s International Nursing Research Congress if selected as an honoree

NOMINATION TIMELINE

17 July–11 December 2025

NOTIFICATION

Award recipients will be notified in February 2026.

PRESENTATION

All awards will be presented at Sigma’s 37th International Nursing Research Congress in July 2026.

PAST RECIPIENTS

[View brief biographies of past recipients online.](#)

CONTACT

For further information, contact Laura Belt at laurab@sigmanursing.org.



- Supporting documentation as further evidence of nominee’s contribution as outlined in the four criteria above (**not to exceed 10 pages**)



Frequently Asked Questions

International Nurse Researcher Awards

General

What is the awards website?

<https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/nurse-researcher-awards>

Nominations are submitted through an online system:

https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/nr2026/cfp.cgi

When is the awards deadline?

11 December 2025, 11:59 p.m. EDT

Is membership required to be a nominee?

Active Sigma membership is required.

Award Criteria

Where are the award criteria sheets?

Both award criteria sheets can be found on the Sigma International Nurse Researcher Awards page: <https://www.sigmanursing.org/advance-elevate/awards/nurse-researcher-awards>

Does the nomination need to fulfill all of the criteria points?

Nomination should show evidence of meeting a majority of the criteria.

I am a board member of my chapter. Can I still submit a nomination?

Only current Sigma International Board of Directors, Sigma elected international committee members, Sigma staff, Sigma consultants and contracted staff, and members of the judging committee are ineligible to submit a nomination or be nominated.

Submitting a Nomination

How do I submit a nomination for the 2026 International Nurse Researcher Awards?

Nominations are submitted through an online system:

https://stti-awards.confex.com/stti_awards/nr2026/cfp.cgi

Is there a hard copy entry form?

No. All entries must be submitted through the online system. Entries mailed to Sigma will not be reviewed.

How do I start an online entry?

You can start an award nomination by clicking the “Submit a nomination today” button on the International Nurse Researcher Awards page. You will then select the award category and click “Submit an entry.”

I started a submission but had to stop. Can I return to the same entry?

Yes. Using your Entry ID (4-digit number) and Entry Password (6-digit number), you can log-in to a nomination until the system closes on 11 December 2025 (11:59 p.m. EST).

What is my Entry ID and Entry Password?

The Entry ID and Entry Password are emailed to the email address entered by the nominator when an entry is started. You can also view them in the top-left corner of the nomination page. Please contact awards@sigmanursing.org if you have lost your Entry ID and Entry Password.

Can I view, edit, or withdraw my nomination once it is submitted?

Yes. You can view, edit, or withdraw your submission until the 11 December 2025 deadline.

Are there font requirements for nomination materials?

Please submit all materials in Calibri 11, Times New Roman 12, or a similar font and size. Margins should be a minimum of .5 inches. Individual nomination materials will note special formatting requirements.

What is the “supporting narrative”?

The supporting narrative is a 1- to 2-page summary, written by the nominator, describing how the nominee meets the award criteria. This is the nominator’s opportunity to write a letter of support.

Can I submit more than two “letters of support”?

No. The judges will only read two letters.

What is the “letter of acceptance”?

This is a statement from the nominee that they will attend Sigma’s International Nursing Research Congress if selected as an award recipient.

What is the “supporting documentation”?

Any documentation or summaries that provide direct evidence of meeting the award criteria are “supporting documentation.” This includes videos, writing samples, articles, photos, etc. This is an opportunity to expand on the summary provided by the supporting narrative. Additional letters of support will not be considered.

What formats can be uploaded through the online system?

TXT - Plain Text

HTML - Hyper Text Markup Language, web pages

PDF - Adobe’s Portable Document Format

GIF, JPG, PNG - Formats commonly used on the web

RTF - Rich text file (most word processors export this format)

DOC - Microsoft Word

WMV, WMA, MOV, WAV, AIFF - Multimedia formats

How do I label the different submission requirements in Step 4: Supporting Material?

Self-narrative from the nominee: Self narrative (used for Emerging Nurse Researcher/Scholar Award submissions only)

Narrative from the nominator/supporting nominator: Summary (criteria)

Two letters of support: Letter of support

Nominee's curriculum vitae: Curriculum vitae A listing of publications: Publication

Letter of acceptance: Letter of acceptance

Supporting documentation: Other, Digital Photo, Article, Screenshot, or other descriptive label

Points of Contact

Whom do I contact with questions?

Laura Belt, Awards Coordinator

888.634.7575 (US/Canada toll-free)

+1.317.634.8171

(International) Email:

awards@sigmanursing.org

Whom do I contact if I have problems with the online system? Confex Technical Support

Call +1.401.334.0220 between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EDT, Monday-

Friday Email: stti_awards@confex.com



AWARDS RUBRIC

EMERGING NURSE RESEARCHER/SCHOLAR AWARD

ENTRY NAME:

RATING SCALE

5 = Outstanding achievement of criteria

4 = Notable achievement of criteria

3 = Adequate achievement of criteria

2 = Fair achievement of criteria

1 = Limited achievement of criteria

NA = Criteria not achieved at this time

CRITERIA

Completed and earned a master's or doctoral degree after 1 December 2020 and 1 December 2025.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
YES	NO

Research/scholarly output has had an impact in an area, country, or global region on the profession of nursing, healthcare, patients, families, community, and/or policy.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		x 5	=	/25
5	4	3	2	1	NA				

Nominee has a record of disseminating research results/related scholarly output in professional nursing and/or non-nursing publications and oral and/or poster presentations.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		x 4	=	/20
5	4	3	2	1	NA				

Nominee has received organizational support, such as funding and/or access to related material or people resources to support related projects.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		x 2	=	/10
5	4	3	2	1	NA				

Nominee is recognized as an early career investigator/scholar and/or emerging leader whose work is influencing policy, clinical practice, education, leadership, research, and/or utilization of evidence.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		x 3	=	/15
5	4	3	2	1	NA				

Points awarded =
Total points available = 70