

Guidelines for Best Paper Award for Graduate Students in AY2025

The Best Paper Award is awarded to graduate students whose research is deemed to be of an exceptionally high quality. The award is open to graduate students who submit their full papers for screening and give English presentations during the conference. By applying for the award, you can receive the conference's registration fee waiver as well*.

*The registration fee for APU students is ¥0 regardless of whether or not they apply for the Best Paper Award.

1. Eligibility

An applicant must meet all conditions below to be eligible for submission.

- Be a full-time graduate student as of June 30, 2025
- Have completed an application to present in the AP Conference 2025 in English
- Have passed the screening of the AP Conference 2025 and received notification of such
- If there are co-authors, they must also be full-time students at the time of application.
- Be able to participate in the AP conference as a presenter
- Have never been granted the Best Paper Award in the past
- The submitted papers must not have been published elsewhere.
- The participant registered as the paper's main author must make the application for the Best Paper Award. In this case, co-authors will automatically also be eligible for the AP Conference fee waiver.

2. Rules your Full Conference Paper should follow

- Language: English
- Format & Size: Microsoft Word, A4
- Abstract: 200 words with four to six keywords
- Length of paper: approximately **5,000** words, not including the references
- Referencing Style: [APA style compliant](#)
- Footnotes: keep to a minimum and use a sequential order with superscript numbers at the bottom of the page. Only cited works should be completely included in the references section.
- Those who submit a full paper after the designated deadline will not be eligible for the registration fee waiver for any reason.
- Those who submit a full paper after paying the registration fee will not be eligible for the registration fee waiver.

3. Application

Application is deemed complete once the **full conference paper is submitted by August 31, 2025** to **apconf@apu.ac.jp**.

4. Screening

The RCAPS Steering Committee selects the best paper(s).

Awarded papers may be considered for publication in the Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies.

※ Winning papers will still need to go through the normal procedure for journal publication.

5. Schedule (Tentative)

June 30 th	Deadline for application submission (conference registration)
July	Abstract results announcement
August 31 st	Deadline for full paper submission
Late-October	Best Paper Award results announcement
November 29 th (Day 1 of Conference)	Best Paper Award will be given on the day of the AP Conference.