

Dear all,

The call for applications is open for the Travel Enrichment Award. See eligibility requirements and criteria below. Please feel free to distribute to other CWSS/SCM members not in the list, or people that will soon become members. **You need to be a CWSS graduate student member to apply.**

CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Award description:

The CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Award(s) will provide CWSS/SCM graduate student recipients with a five-day, four-night educational experience of their choosing as described by each participating host (table below). The award will broaden the recipient's exposure to weed science beyond their educational institution and provide the opportunity to experience weed science in a different province, research program, and/or organization. **Each of three awards will consist of \$5000 CAD to cover expenses related to the travel enrichment experience.**

The objectives of the CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Award(s) are:

- To provide CWSS/SCM graduate students with the opportunity to participate in a five-day, four-night educational experience with weed science professionals in a different province than that of their educational institution.
- To enhance the exposure of CWSS/SCM graduate students to different research programs, farming systems, and/or organizations.
- To develop and encourage networking opportunities between CWSS/SCM graduate students and weed science professionals.

Eligibility requirements:

Applicants must:

- Be a graduate (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) student attending a Canadian university with good academic standing, or a Canadian citizen graduate student (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) attending an international university with good academic standing.
- Be enrolled in a graduate student program with a thesis topic related to weed science.
- Be a registered member of the CWSS/SCM at the time of application.
- Summarize the travel enrichment experience in a 10–12 minute pre-recorded oral presentation that will be played during the breaks or awards banquet at the next CWSS/SCM annual meeting. (Specifics will be provided directly to each recipient).

Applications must include:

A completed application form (see below for an example), including:

- Cover letter describing the applicant's interest in weed science and the travel enrichment experience (max 1 page).
- Brief CV summary highlighting recent relevant experience (max 1 page).
- Graduate and undergraduate academic transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable).
- Two letters of support, one of which must be from the applicant's graduate advisor (max 1 page).

Potential hosts:

HOST	INSTITUTION	LOCATION	EXPERIENCE
Dr. Dilshan Benaragama	University of Manitoba	Winnipeg, MB	Dr. Benaragama's research program is dedicated to advancing remote sensing technologies to enhance decision-making and precision input applications for agricultural producers in Western Canada. His work primarily focuses on the utilization of RGB, multispectral, and LiDAR sensors to gather critical information on crop and weed growth, with the goal of developing sophisticated decision-making tools that can optimize agricultural practices. Currently, Dr. Benaragama's main research emphasis is on quantifying crop-weed competition through drone-based sensors and developing yield loss models to inform better decision-making processes. In tandem, he is exploring the potential of sprayer drones for weed detection and targeted spot or patch spraying in various crop systems. His research also extends to the application of 3D modeling using LiDAR sensors to quantify crop and weed growth with greater accuracy. Students involved in Dr. Benaragama's research will gain hands-on experience in operating different types of drones, collecting and processing data from various sensors, and analyzing growth attributes of crops and weeds through remote sensing technologies. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to apply machine learning algorithms to detect weeds and crops from aerial imagery, equipping them with valuable skills in the intersection of agriculture and artificial intelligence.
Drs. Charles Geddes & Breanne Tidemann	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Lethbridge, AB & Lacombe, AB	Weed ecology & IWM on the Canadian Prairies; 2 different research centres; dryland & irrigated cropping systems; herbicide-resistant weed discovery, monitoring & management; resistance mechanisms; novel weed management tactics; HWSC
Dr. Leonardo Galindo González	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	Ottawa, ON	Molecular biology and omics in weeds. Development of approaches for weed species identification including CRISPR, metabarcoding and bioinformatics. Study of herbicide resistance in wild oat using DNA barcoding and gene expression analyses. Whole genome analyses in Amaranthus. Study of parasitic plants.
Dr. Andrew McKenzie-Gopsill	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	Charlottetown, PEI	Weed biology, ecology, and management in Atlantic Canada; cover crops; invasive species management; conventional and organic horticulture and field crops; novel weed management in horticulture crops

CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Application Form:

Send all applications in a single .pdf document to the CWSS/SCM Scholarships and Awards Chair, Leonardo Galindo Gonzalez (Leonardo.GalindoGonzalez@inspection.gc.ca | galindo@ualberta.ca) by January 1, 2025.

On the subject field please place your full name followed by: application to the CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Award.

1. Applicant Name: _____

2. Selection of Host for the CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

3. Cover Letter (max 1 page):

4. CV Summary (max 1 page):

5. Graduate and Undergraduate Academic Transcripts: (unofficial copies are acceptable)

6. Two letters of support (max 1 page, each) – **these letters are to be sent directly from the two references to the email above, so they will not be part of your pdf document. Please indicate to your references they should place your full name and “CWSS/SCM Travel Enrichment Experience Award support letter” as subject in the email.**