

MPSA Policy on Naming Awards and Scholarships (Revised 4/4/24)

NAMING AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS. MPSA awards and scholarships should be named after highly distinguished scholars who have made significant contributions to the discipline. It is also in the interest of the MPSA, and the profession, to consider the diversity of profiles represented in the MPSA's set of awards and scholarships. Those considered for a naming honor should have sound reputations with respect to their character and research.

Awards may be created or renamed for the Field, Subfield, and Career Stage categories with preference given to emeritus, retired (or not active), or non-living scholars with the understanding that under exceptional circumstances, and upon review by the Committee on Awards, these awards may be named after non-emeritus, non-retired (and/or active) living scholars. New Flagship Awards could potentially also be created, with the same criteria.

Graduate Student Travel Scholarships may be created and should be named for scholars with sound reputation and character.

The funding level recipients receive for Field and Subfield ("Best Paper") Awards is \$250 and for Conference Travel Scholarships is \$500. Career Stage Awards vary in funding levels.

AWARD CATEGORIES. The MPSA currently has almost twenty awards in the following categories:

- **Flagship Awards.** The best paper in the AJPS, and the best paper presented at the MPSA Conference.
- **Field Awards.** The best paper presented at the MPSA conference in the major fields of political science.
- **Subfield Awards.** The best paper presented at the MPSA conference in a more specialized subfield.
- **Career Status Awards.** Recognizing excellent research by undergraduate students, graduate students, and recent PhDs, as well as a career contribution award.
- **Conference Travel Scholarships** for individuals to attend the MPSA.

PROCESS TO CREATE A NEW AWARD OR SCHOLARSHIP. Several current awards are not named, and new awards are also a possibility. It is also possible to create and name new Conference Travel Scholarships. Nominations to name or create an award or scholarship can be made by MPSA members. The nomination should be submitted through [this form](#) and should include:

- **Category of Award or Scholarship:** (e.g. Field Award or Conference Travel Award);
- **Name of Award: or Scholarship** (e.g. J. Jones Award for the Best Paper on American Politics);
- **Brief statement** about the person for whom the award is to be named;
- **Current funding** status (there should be \$5,000 currently raised, and a commitment to raise another \$5000)*;
- **Contact information** for the person/group who is making the nomination.
- **CV** of the person for whom the award is to be named;

* **If a Field, Subfield, or Career Stage Award** is to be named or renamed for a living, non-emeritus individual, preliminary approval should be sought from the Committee on New Awards prior to soliciting pledges to ensure the award meets the criteria for final approval.

COMMITTEE ON AWARDS. The MPSA President will appoint a five-person Committee on Awards to review any nominations and make a recommendation to the Council that takes note of all relevant factors. This committee will evaluate recommendations to name current awards or to create new awards or scholarships. The President may also ask this committee to assist in locating people to serve on the various current award committees.

CURRENT AWARDS & TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Awards for Research:** <https://www.mpsanet.org/professional-resources/awards/mpsa-research-awards/>
- **Conference Travel Scholarships:** <https://www.mpsanet.org/about/scholarships/graduate-student-travel-scholarships/>