



PRODUCTION AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY TO EXTEND AND INTEGRATE KNOWLEDGE PERTAINING TO PRODUCTION AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

36th Annual POMS Conference, Reno, NV, USA, MAY 7-11, 2026

Transforming POM with AI: New Perspectives for a Better World

The Dino Petrarolo Emerging Economies Doctoral Dissertation Award for Africa and the Middle East Region

The Emerging Economies Doctoral Student Award (EEDSA) has been created by the Production and Operations Management Society (POMS) to establish institutional linkages to reach out to future scholars in emerging economies, to encourage their development and to facilitate building connections to POMS. This award is for the emerging economies of Africa and the Middle East region.

You are required to submit your abstract (50 words) on the conference website (www.poms.org). The last date to submit the abstract is November 16, 2025. This is a requirement for participating in the competition.

AWARD CRITERIA

To be eligible for the award, the student must be currently enrolled (at the time of the application) in a Ph.D. program in an accredited academic institution in Operations Management related field in a country with an “emerging economy” in Africa and the Middle East region. To receive the award, a Ph.D. student must demonstrate evidence of substantial promise as a scholar in an Operations Management related field. The award will go to the student who demonstrates the greatest promise as judged by the committee members.

The recipient of the award, a Ph.D. student, will receive a grant to cover travel from abroad to attend the conference in the USA. The grant can be used for airfare, room accommodation at the conference hotel, and up to \$200 (US) to meet incidental expenses. However, the total grant money will not exceed \$2,000 (US). Registration for the conference will be complimentary. The award committee may give the award to one or more Ph.D. students. The grant money will be split among the awardees; and the total grant money given to all the awardees shall not exceed \$2,000 (US). The winner(s) will be reimbursed the appropriate amount upon submission of receipts. An institution (university or corporation) may sponsor a student with a commitment to partially fund the cost of travel from abroad to the USA.

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION

By January 15, 2026, please email copies of the materials listed below (one pdf file) to the committee chair, Prof. Wilna Bean (wilna.bean@up.ac.za), with a copy to Professor Subodha Kumar, the Executive Director of POMS via e-mail (poms@temple.edu). **Please insert “EEDSA– Africa & Middle East – your first and last name” in the subject line of your email.** The committee chair will acknowledge receipt and distribute copies to the judges. The portfolio should include:

1. An extended abstract (pdf format) of at most 5 double-spaced pages of the paper to be presented at the POMS conference. Mention your abstract number (submitted on the conference website) on the top of your extended abstract.
2. A copy of the candidate’s resume.
3. A letter from an official of her/his academic institution stating that she/he is in good standing in her/his Ph.D. program in an Operations Management related field.

The winner(s) of the award will be notified by February 15, 2026. An award plaque will be presented to the winner(s) at the 2026 POMS Annual Conference.