**Viruses of Microbes Meeting**

**VoM 2026**

**Application form**

**Introduction:**

The Viruses of Microbes (VoM) conference is the official meeting of the International Society of Viruses of Microorganisms (ISVM; [www.isvm.org/](http://www.isvm.org/)).

Complete application form must be submitted by email to the ISVM Board  
([board@isvm.org](mailto:board@isvm.org)) by **30 April 2024**.

There will be a few weeks after the deadline of submission during which the ISVM Board may request additional information, after which the ISVM Board will review and decide by mid-June 2024. The selected organizers will be invited to present their application during the upcoming **Viruses of Microbes conference (VoM 2024) in Cairns, Australia**, in person or by sending a PowerPoint presentation or video.

Prospective organizers are advised that the organization of the Viruses of Microbes meeting is a rewarding but also demanding task that must be undertaken only with the backing of several co-organizers (a strong local organizing committee).

**The application form starts here.**

**We prepared a Checklist for your convenience.**

***(text in italics is indicative of the expected information)***

1. **Applicant/Organizer Information**

**1a. Organizing committee:**

Name, affiliation, and contact information of the Lead Organizer:

Affiliation/address:

Email:

**1b. Scientific and local community:**

*Please describe the national scientific community working on viruses of microbes.*

*Please describe the local organizing community.*

**1c. Names, affiliations, and email addresses of local co-organizers (minimum of 2)**:

1. **Event Details**

**2a. Principal research area:**

*State principal research area linked to viruses of microorganisms for each committee member. Describe the specific goals for the meeting in your geographical area.*

**2b. Location and description of the venue facility (2 pages max.)**

*Based on the attendance at previous meetings, the facilities should have adequate space for at least* ***600-700 attendees and 400 posters****, commercial exhibits, registration desk, and catering. The space for posters should be large enough to allow informal discussions.*

*Considering that thus far VoM conferences have been located in Europe, applications with locations outside Europe should aim for at least 30% of attendees from their specific non-European continent to ensure sufficient critical mass.*

*Describe whether the event will be delivered traditionally (in-person attendance only at a single, self-contained venue), or hybrid (a combination of local and virtual participation),.*

**2c. Nature of accommodation available**

*Please provide a short description of solutions proposed for accommodations (hotels and eventual transportation).*

**2d. Proposed dates**

*During the past 10 years, the Viruses of Microbes meeting has been organized during the first half of the month of July. However, suggestions for other dates are accepted in case mid-July does not work (please provide the reason why). However, these dates should not overlap with other international meetings on microbiology or virology.*

1. **Scientific program**

*The organizers will build the scientific program of the meeting together with the scientific committee. Note that the organizers are expected to set up the international scientific committee together with ISVM Executive members / ISVM Scientific Advisory Board.*

**3a. Focus of the meeting:**

*State which particular research area linked to viruses of microorganisms you would like to emphasize as the theme of the meeting (if any). The emphasis should be different from the previous meetings and should not be the only topic of the meeting. Do note that ISVM likes to guarantee good coverage of the different microbial hosts being infected, as well as the different disciplines.*

**3b. Schedule of the meeting:**

*Below is an example of the recommended schedule for the meeting. This meeting lasts 4.5 days not overlapping with a week-end. Two* ***key features*** *are the absence of parallel sessions and the inclusion of long breaks following lunches to allow fruitful discussions around the posters. Ideally, posters can be up during the entire meeting. Modifications around the proposed agenda are possible after discussion with the ISVM Board (contact person Zuzanna Drulis-Kawa* [*zuzanna.drulis-kawa@uwr.edu.pl*](mailto:zuzanna.drulis-kawa@uwr.edu.pl) *and/or Matthias Fischer (*[*Matthias.Fischer@mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de*](mailto:Matthias.Fischer@mpimf-heidelberg.mpg.de)*). In the past, one of the 15 sessions was often replaced by a workshop on phage genomics but other subjects of interest to our community are welcome.*

Table 1 Example Conference Schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **during the day** | Arrival and Registration | Session | Session | Session | Session |
|  |  | break | break | break | break |
|  |  | Session | Session | Session | Session |
|  |  | lunch | lunch | lunch | lunch |
| **afternoon** | Opening | xx | ISVM GA | xx | xx |
|  | Keynotes | Session | Session | Session | Session |
|  | Welcome reception | break | break | break | Awards+closing remarks |
|  |  | Session | Session | Session |  |
|  |  |  |  | Gala Dinner |  |
| ISVM General Assembly before or directly after lunch 30-60 min | | | | | |
| potential for pre-conference workshops | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **Finances:**

*Please use the Excel file joined to this letter to provide prospective budgets including several scenarios with at least 3 levels of participants (eg 350, 450, or 550 participants). Include the complete Excel file in your application.*

*Note that ISVM does not provide seed money to jump-start the organization (like reservation of the meeting location), but will help organizers as much as possible (upon request) when applying for financial support.*