



INGSA Research Associates Grant Programme 2018

Call for Applications

Overview

The International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) is a collaborative platform for policy makers, practitioners, national academies, and academics to share experience, build capacity and develop theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government.

In line with this mission, INGSA is offering six professional development and research grants to support early-to-mid career researchers or policy practitioners in Low and Middle Income Countries. Each grant recipient will manage and conduct a project of their choice in line with the priority research theme specified below. Successful applicants will become INGSA Research Associates for the period of the grant (March 2018 – February 2019).

The grant will be an opportunity for researchers and policy practitioners to:

- identify and work with an international mentor of the applicant's choosing;
- undertake professional development activities and research with the support of INGSA collaborators and mentors;
- present their work and network with other INGSA Research Associates at INGSA's next biennial conference in Tokyo, Japan (September 2018);
- build peer and professional networks & visibility through INGSA activities and communications; and
- develop their career through publications and research activities that support the INGSA mission.

INGSA operates under the auspices of the International Council for Science (ICSU)). Grants are made possible through a partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Priority research theme

Funding for 2018-2019 will support research in one of INGSA's thematic priority areas: **The role of scientific evidence and advice in support of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

Scientific evidence and advice in support of the SDGs

Successful delivery of the UN's Global Goals (SDGs) by 2030 will require action at every level of government, business and civil society. The research community has a crucial role to play in providing evidence, expertise and data to underpin, inform, measure and

monitor the implementation of the seventeen SDGs. But processes of translation from evidence into policy are far from straightforward. In many countries, evidence and expertise is sought with growing urgency across a proliferating array of policy questions. At the same time, in an era of 'post-truth' politics, its legitimacy has rarely been so contested.

An increasing diversity of governments are now establishing formal science advisory mechanisms within their own domestic systems. But unless science advisory systems at the international level are coherently and appropriately linked to national science advisory systems, progress against key SDGs will be slowed.

A recent report from ICSU [<https://www.icsu.org/publications/a-guide-to-sdg-interactions-from-science-to-implementation>] has identified the science advisory system as critical to navigate the complexity and the urgency of the SDGs. Looking towards 2030, communities of research, policy and practice are now focusing on questions of how to improve the provision, communication and application of evidence and data to SDG implementation. And there are intensifying debates about the accuracy, validity, politics and purposes of development data.

Successful applicants will become INGSA Research Associates and will be expected to undertake research in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) on the role of scientific evidence and advice in informing SDG policy and implementation. Research or policy outputs should focus on one or more of the SDGs, and/or the interactions between SDGs, in a given national or regional context.

For example, topics could include:

- The contribution of advice by the Indian Academy of Sciences to national policy and public debates over shale gas and fracking.
- Scientific evidence and advice in support of biodiversity management in Guatemala.
- Lessons from Ebola: the role of scientific advice and evidence in epidemic preparedness in West Africa.

These self-directed projects will be expected to involve research leading to publication(s) in a peer-reviewed journal, a policy report, or other high-quality resources and guidelines aimed at policy-makers. They may also include a training component.

In addition, INGSA Research Associates will be encouraged to contribute to the wider activities and knowledge resources of the INGSA network by:

- Developing an INGSA case study, by researching and writing an accessible 4000-5000 word summary of a recent example of scientific evidence and advice relating to one or more SDGs in their country. This case report will be made available on the INGSA website and used in international workshops. Examples can be seen here: <http://www.ingsa.org/resources/ingsa-case-studies/>
- Researching and writing a 2500-3000 word country report as a contribution towards an international 'Atlas of Scientific Advice' which INGSA plans to develop, in partnership with UNESCO. Research Associates are encouraged to produce a systematic map of the scientific advisory system in their country (covering a brief history and overview of key institutions, structures, processes and people). This exercise will follow an established template (see example) and will be made available on the INGSA website.

Selection criteria and instructions

There are six INGSA Research Associate Grants available to begin in 2018, valued at €15,000 each. Additional support will be made available for applicants to travel to the INGSA conference in Japan in September 2018.

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a PhD at time of application OR have at least 5 years full-time equivalent experience in research or as a public policy professional (e.g. advice, analysis, implementation, evaluation).
- Applicants must be living and working in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). A list of eligible countries can be found here: <http://www.ingsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/INGSA-List-of-Eligible-Project-Countries.pdf>
- Applicants must be employed at a recognised institution of higher education, an independent research organisation, government agency, international organisation, or relevant NGO for the duration of the award.
- Applicants should have identified and engaged a mentor (either in-country or international) who can offer advice and guidance on the applicant's project. This support will be supplemented by access to INGSA's network of mentors.
- Applicants who can demonstrate relevant experience relating to developing and using science in public policy and government advisory systems are particularly encouraged to apply.
- Funding cannot be awarded directly to individuals but will be paid to the organisation with which they are affiliated. It is permissible for organisations to claim up to a maximum 3% of the grant sum to cover overheads related to administering funds on behalf of the applicant. The organisation must indicate its support for the candidate's participation in this process (see application requirements below).

Eligible expenses

The maximum amount of funding awarded will be €15,000 euros per project. The following types of activities and associated expenses will be considered for support:

- Economy class travel, visas, accommodation and subsistence for meetings with project participants (e.g. to carry out research or build networks).
- Field/scoping visits to research sites of relevance.
- An institutional visit to a foreign university or other relevant agency, including travel, visas, temporary accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Appropriate training, including travel, course fees, temporary accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Workshops, meetings and other events involving project participants.
- Consumables (e.g. printing; recording equipment).
- Cost of Open Access Journal fees - This grant adheres to IDRC's Open Access Policy (<https://www.idrc.ca/en/open-access-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>)
- Professional facilitation or translation support for meetings.
- In exceptional cases, where applicants are required by their institutions to cover release time for professional development or research, this expense will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

What the INGSA grant scheme cannot be used for

- The INGSA grant cannot be used to support or top-up applicants' normal salary costs.

- Conference registration fees (unless special permission is sought from INGSA).
- Salaries for research assistants or other support staff.

NB: Any funds awarded under this grant must be managed appropriately, following institutional accountability and auditing processes for all project expenses. Applicants' institutions must be able to identify all direct costs claimed and maintain records of expenditure for reporting and auditing purposes.

Grant deliverables

At the end of the grant period (February 2019) the INGSA Research Associates will need to submit:

- A two-page grant report detailing the work carried out as part of the INGSA grant, including evaluation and records of expenditure.
- Any drafts or completed scholarly and/or peer-reviewed publications as set out in their written proposal.
- Any content, resources or guidelines created as part of the project.
- Financial reporting requirements, including audit statements as required by ICSU.
- [Optional] A case study report publishable on the INGSA website, and
- [Optional] A country-specific analysis of the science advice system to be included in the 'Atlas of Science Advice'.

Selection timetable and process

Call for applicants:	15 September 2017
Submission deadline:	15 November 2017
Review and selection:	December 2017
Funding decision / award:	January 2018
Grant commencement:	1 March 2018
Attendance at INGSA Conference:	21-22 September 2018
Submission of grant deliverables:	February 2019

Application process

Applications must be submitted online through the INGSA website (<http://www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/>)

Applicants to provide the following information:

- Name and institutional affiliation, and position held.
- Proposed title of project.
- A short CV (No more than 3 pages).
- A clear, non-expert summary of the proposed research or activities and how these will be explored. Please note, the research must be relevant to scientific advice in applicant's country of work pertaining to one, or a number of SDGs as set out in the thematic priority above (up to 500 words).
- A further list of 3-6 short research questions that will guide the research activity, posed in everyday language. If your application is successful you may revise these questions.

- A brief outline of the academic disciplines or practitioner expertise that will be brought together in this project (up to 200 words).
- The expected impact of the grant on the applicant's career (up to 400 words).
- Identification of a mentor (either in-country or international) that can provide advice and guidance on the project. Alternatively, indicate why this is not possible (200 words).
- A letter of support from the identified mentor.
- An indication of other relevant knowledge partners in this area with whom engagement will be sought and the strategy by which they will be engaged. Include an explanation of any existing links between the applicant and these partners (up to 400 words).
- A proposed budget and justification of the funds requested.
- Short public biography of the applicant (up to 200 words).
- A letter of support from the home institution of the applicant indicating:
 - a. willingness to support the activities carried out under the grant,
 - b. agreement with the time commitment associated with carrying out this work,
 - c. confirmation of the employment status of the applicant for duration of the grant
 - d. agreement and ability to manage the supplied funds in accordance with required due diligence and fulfill financial reporting/audit requirements
 - e. documentation of institution's status is a legal entity.
- **Note:** English is the working language of INGSA. All application materials must be submitted in English. Research outputs may be submitted in other international languages but must include an English summary.

Selection Process

Selection Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Importance
Proposed project outcomes: – new knowledge, novel tools, linkages, collaborations, skills	Very High
Relevance to one or more of the SDGs	High
Proven Track Record and/or Future Potential of the Applicant	Medium

- In selecting the successful applicants, INGSA will be taking into account regional and gender diversity.

The selection committee is balanced by region and gender, comprising officials from INGSA, ICSU and IDRC along with one delegate from each of the INGSA Regional Chapters (Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, and Africa).

Value of Grant

There are six INGSA Research Associate Grants available to commence in 2018. Each grant will be supported up to a maximum of €15,000. Additional support will be made available for travel to the INGSA conference in Japan in September 2018.

Further Information

Further information about INGSA, including example case studies, can be found on the INGSA website: www.ingsa.org

Any questions associated with this call, or to report technical issues with the application process can be directed to: INGSA Programme Officer, Grant Mills: g.mills@ingsa.org

To Apply

Applications must be submitted through the INGSA Website:
(www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/)