

IASC Fellowship Program

Promotion and involvement of the next generation of Arctic scientists are of major importance for the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC). These actions support its mission of encouraging and facilitating cooperation in all aspects of Arctic research, between all countries engaged in Arctic research, and among all areas of the Arctic region. To achieve this, the IASC Fellowship Program for Early Career Scientists (ECS) was created. The IASC Fellowship Program includes the engagement of Fellows in the activities of one or more IASC Working Groups (WGs; Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Marine, Social & Human and Terrestrial) which are IASC's scientific core components. The WG's primary function is to encourage and support international scientific programs by offering opportunities for planning and coordination, as well as by enabling communication and access to science-based facilities.

The Program

IASC Fellows are doctoral or postdoctoral researchers who actively participate in selected activities of the IASC WGs. Fellows are expected to contribute scientifically to the international scientific programs associated with the WGs in which they participate, as well as to coordinate the reporting within their respective WG's official meetings. Through these activities, the Fellowship program provides opportunities for Fellows to become involved in leading-edge scientific activities and cooperative initiatives at a circum-Arctic and/or international level, build an international network of contacts, and develop management skills. The IASC coordinator of Early Career support oversees the program.

Fellowship Outline and Activities

The total duration of the IASC Fellowship Program is 1+2 years. After the first year the Fellows have an opportunity to stay involved up to 2 more years. The further involvement is individually decided by mutual consent of the WG Steering Group and the Fellow.

Each year IASC will select one new ECS Fellow per WG (up to five in total). In their first year, selected Fellows will be financially supported (travel/accommodation/meal reimbursement), and that support includes attendance at two consecutive Arctic Science Summit Weeks (ASSWs) when annual WG meetings are held. IASC Fellows receive travel support to attend two ASSWs, so that in each WG meeting there is one incoming and at least one outgoing Fellow.

During their first year, Fellows involved in WG activities are expected to contribute scientifically and administratively. Involvement can include recording WG meeting minutes, fostering cross-cutting initiatives (initiatives that involve working with more than one WG), as well as longer-term, possibly Fellow-led projects, which are especially encouraged. Additionally, first-year IASC Fellows receive travel funding for approved meetings, workshops, and/or conferences associated with a WG, provided that the Fellows help to facilitate the meeting's organization, including follow-up activities and reporting.

To be aware of the priorities, scientific projects, and activities of their respective working group, it is important that Fellows are placed on all relevant mailings throughout the program duration.

During the second and third year of the program, Fellows remain informed of the projects and daily work of their selected WG; however they are no longer financially supported by IASC. Involvement of second- and third-year Fellows can include work within any initiatives they started in the first year, conversations with WG Members/Chairs, and taking part in WG (email) conversations. Attendance of second- and third-year Fellows in ASSWs and other meetings is appreciated but not mandatory and depends on funding and other commitments.

Throughout the duration of the Fellowship, Fellows are encouraged to cooperate as a team in order to facilitate the exchange of information and ideas between WGs.

IASC Fellows will receive a certificate confirming their appointment.

Selection Process

The IASC Fellow selection process is managed by the IASC coordinator and conducted in close cooperation with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) as well as the WG Steering Groups. A call for applications is released each year in October through the IASC, APECS and other partners' mailing lists, websites and Facebook. Any doctoral or postdoctoral researcher from an IASC member country can apply. Required qualifications include demonstrated scientific interest and skills within a field that is relevant to the respective one or more WGs' priorities and a good command of the English language. The IASC Fellowship review process is coordinated with the APECS Executive Committee. Once the top three candidates for each WG are identified, WG Steering Groups will be consulted with the intention of determining the final selected Fellow.