



AIDS 2026

Media scholarship FAQs

Who can apply for a media scholarship?

The IAS Media Scholarship Programme is open to journalists, media specialists and online content creators who will be at least 18 years old at the time of the conference and belong to one of the following three categories:

Category 1:

Journalists, photographers and videographers who are either employees of or on assignment for a recognized print, radio, broadcast or online consumer, medical, community-based or HIV service organization-sponsored media outlet. The IAS will review these applications on a case-by-case basis. There cannot be more than three applications per organization; an organization will not be able to submit further applications once three applications have been submitted and approved.

Category 2:

Public-facing communications professionals attached to a recognized non-profit HIV research, advocacy or policy organization and whose work is directly related to supporting media coverage of presentations at AIDS 2026. The IAS will review these applications on a case-by-case basis. There cannot be more than three applications per organization; an organization will not be able to submit further applications once three applications have been submitted and approved.

Category 3:

Social media influencers who make significant contributions to the HIV response. These influencers or content creators must be working in the HIV response and/or broader public health or have strong connections with key populations and have a social following of over 50,000 on X, BlueSky, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube. The IAS will examine applications on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that the number of media scholarships available is limited.

How do I apply for a media scholarship? What supporting documentation is required?

All eligible candidates must complete and submit an online media scholarship application form on their [AIDS 2026 profile](#). This form will ask applicants to provide information about their background, experience, motivation to attend the conference and how their participation would benefit their community.



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Candidates must include work samples and support letters that align with the category in which they are currently active:

Category 1 (Journalists, photographers and videographers) – Required documentation:

1. Letter from your editor stating the purpose of your assignment at AIDS 2026 (on official company letterhead). If you are a freelance journalist, please provide a letter stating the purpose of your assignment(s) and what outlet(s) you are providing coverage for.
2. A copy of your current press badge/media accreditation or two recent HIV or global health-related articles with your byline (URLs or scanned copies of print pieces are accepted). Note: If original articles are not in English, please provide an English translation for review. Your byline must be clearly visible for our review.

Category 2 (Public-facing communications professionals) – Required documentation:

1. A letter from the communications director of your non-profit organization stating the purpose of your assignment at AIDS 2026 (on official company letterhead). This letter must clarify that you will be attending AIDS 2026 to report on the conference in your public-facing communications or media role for your organization.
2. Two samples of recent public-facing work produced for your organization (this can include blog posts and social media). This work should be related to HIV or global health more broadly. Note: If original samples are not in English, please provide an English translation for review.

Category 3 (Social media influencers) – Required documentation:

1. A letter that briefly states what you plan to cover at AIDS 2026 and includes the URL links to your social media accounts, one of which must have over 50,000 followers.
2. Two samples of recent posts you have produced related to the field of HIV, broader public health or key populations. Note: If original samples are not in English, please provide an English translation for review.

Can I apply for the scholarship in Portuguese or Spanish?

We welcome and encourage registrations by local media delegates in Brazil and Latin America who report in Portuguese and Spanish, as well as international media who report in English. Applications for media registration and media scholarships **must be completed in English**; applicants who do not speak English are encouraged to use an online translator, such as Google Translate or DeepL, to translate their application. Translated applications will not be penalized if the English is not perfect.

At AIDS 2026, Portuguese and Spanish translators will be available on site for media. All conference sessions will feature live translation services.

26–31 July 2026 · Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



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Do I need to register for the conference to apply for a media scholarship?

No. If you receive a media scholarship, you will be automatically registered to attend the conference. If you submitted an application and were not awarded a full media scholarship, your application will be reviewed to see if you are eligible to be offered a free AIDS 2026 media registration to facilitate your attendance and coverage of the conference.

If you completed an application, were not granted a scholarship, and did not meet the requirements for media registration, you will have the opportunity to register for the conference as a regular delegate at the early registration fee for two weeks after the results are announced.

What does the media scholarship provide?

Recipients of the IAS Media Scholarship will receive (based on needs requested in the application):

- **In person plus virtual registration**, including:
 - **In-person access** to all conference sessions, satellite sessions, poster discussion sessions, the exhibition, the Global Village and pre-conferences
 - **Online access** to all conference sessions, satellite sessions and pre-conferences streamed live on the platform, session recordings and on-demand content, the e-posters and the virtual Global Village
- **Travel support** (pre-paid economy class return ticket from the nearest international airport in your country of residence) for the dates of the conference
- **Accommodation** (single room in a budget hotel) for the duration of the conference
- **Daily living allowance** for each day of the conference

The AIDS 2026 Media Scholarship Programme will not reimburse any costs you have incurred before receiving a scholarship. Therefore, you are advised to avoid pre-booking accommodation and flights or registering for the conference if you have requested this type of financial support in your application. If you are selected for the scholarship and the full financial support you requested is granted, we will not be able to reimburse you for these costs.

Participation in the IAS Media Scholarship Programme includes attending briefings, press conferences, and site visits, as well as receiving dedicated support in the conference media centre.



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What is required from media scholarship recipients?

Media scholarship recipients must agree to be in Rio de Janeiro and attend the full duration of AIDS 2026 from 26 to 31 July, inclusive, and attend and participate in all media scholarship programme activities.

Media scholarship recipients are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Brazilian government's immigration policies and obtaining a visa, if required.

How will applications be evaluated?

Priority will be given to media scholarship applicants who:

- Work for national or international top-tier media outlets with a wide regional, national or international reach, regardless of the medium.
- Have a proven history of covering HIV and/or infectious diseases. Scientific and broader reporting are both encouraged.
- Are based in resource-limited settings or represent target countries/regions of interest. These include South and Southeast Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; central, eastern, southern and western Africa; and eastern Europe and central Asia.
- Demonstrate a strong commitment to reporting on HIV and/or infectious diseases. Preference will be given to individuals representing outlets that have a proven background in reporting on global health topics, more specifically, infectious diseases and HIV.
- Are part of key populations or living with HIV.

For Category 1, are applications accepted from online journalists?

Yes. Applications are accepted from print, broadcast (radio or TV) and online journalists. Please note that the media organization publishing the clips should have a clear, professional editorial structure. In general, individually published materials, such as blog posts or videos posted by an individual, will not be considered. In general, unpublished works will not be considered.

Should I also apply for media registration?

No. Any media scholarship candidates who are not selected for the programme will be evaluated to see if they are eligible for media registration for the conference and, if so, will be notified accordingly.



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What is the application deadline and when are applicants notified?

You can save a draft of your application form and complete it at your own pace.

Applications must be completed and submitted by Tuesday, 27 January 2026, 23:59 CET. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Notifications will be emailed to applicants in early April 2026.

For logistical or other enquiries about the scholarship programme, please refer to the general scholarship FAQs at the bottom of the [Scholarships webpage](#). If you have further questions, please reach out to the Scholarship team at scholarships@aid2026.org. Due to the high volume of requests, we can guarantee responses only to questions that have not been addressed on the IAS website.