



IAS 2025

IAS 2025 Media Scholarship Programme terms and conditions

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

IAS 2025, the 13th IAS Conference on HIV Science, will take place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 13 to 17 July 2025, with pre-conferences on 13 July. The IAS 2025 Media Scholarship Programme provides financial assistance to attend IAS 2025 to selected applicants who meet the media scholarship eligibility criteria.

The programme is intended for individuals who would otherwise not have the financial means to attend IAS 2025 in person so they can publicly report on the conference. It supports:

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.

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 IAS 2025. These applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and cannot exceed three applications per organization. The organization will not be able to submit further applications once three applications have been submitted and approved.

Category 3:

Social media influencers who make a significant contribution to the field of HIV and/or broader public health or have strong connections with key populations and have a following of over 50,000 on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube.



Eligibility

The IAS 2025 Media Scholarship Programme is open to people belonging to one of the three categories above, who are at least 18 years old on 13 July 2025. Priority will be given to 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.
- 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, infectious diseases and HIV more specifically.
- Are based in resource-limited settings or represent target countries/regions of interest. This includes South and Southeast Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; the Middle East and North Africa; central, eastern, western and southern Africa; and eastern Europe and central Asia.
- Are part of key populations or living with HIV.

Media scholarship recipients must be available to attend for the full duration of the conference (13 to 17 July 2025, inclusive) and any activity targeted towards media personnel related to the conference.

Please note that the number of media scholarships available is limited. The selection of media scholars is at the sole discretion of the IAS and information about the selection process (including, strengths, weaknesses and ratings of applicants) cannot and will not be shared with candidates.

Application process

The application process is entirely free. Application forms must be completed in full and in English to be considered. Supporting documentation must also be in English.

Applications will be accepted until 22 January 2025, 23:59 Central European Time (CET).

Please complete the online application form only once. If several applications are identical (even partially), this will be considered fraudulent and the applications will be discarded.

You can save partially completed or draft application forms before submitting them. However, the entire application must be completed and submitted, with supporting documents, by 22 January 2025, 23:59 CET to be considered.

All applicants will be notified by email about the status of their application in early April 2025. Applicants who have received a media scholarship offer will get 10 days to accept the offer from the time the notification email is sent. It is important that you accept your scholarship in the



timeframe stipulated in the offer so that the IAS can make the logistical arrangements for your participation.

The following supporting documentation, including work samples corresponding to the category in which you are currently active, must be uploaded for your application to be complete and valid.

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

1. Letter from your editor stating the purpose of your assignment at IAS 2025 (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 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 at your non-profit organization stating the purpose of your assignment at IAS 2025 (on official company letterhead). This letter must clarify that you will be attending IAS 2025 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 of recommendation from someone who knows your work well and can attest to your work ethic, approach and areas of focus and can vouch for your application and your ability to fully participate in this programme. This could be a mentor, teacher or fellow content creator.
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.

Attendance type and visa requirements

We strongly encourage you to verify the Rwandan government's entry requirements and ensure that you comply with them. If you are selected for a scholarship, the IAS will provide supporting documentation for your visa application, including a scholarship award letter and a letter of invitation.

Scholarship recipients' registration details may be shared with the Rwandan immigration authorities to assist in the immigration process. However, please note that the decision to grant a visa lies solely with the Rwandan government, and the IAS will not directly contact embassies and consulates on behalf of delegates.



If you require a change to virtual attendance, you will need to email the IAS Scholarships team before 1 June 2025.

If the IAS changes the conference format to fully virtual, all in-person scholarships will be converted to virtual registrations.

Media scholarship benefits

You will be asked to indicate on your IAS 2025 Media Scholarship application the various types of support you require to attend the conference in person (you can request accommodation, travel and daily living allowance on top of media registration).

The IAS 2025 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.

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 IAS 2025 media registration to facilitate your attendance and coverage of the conference.

If you completed an application, were not granted a media 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.

Conference embargo policy

All IAS 2025 abstracts are released to delegates and media under a strict embargo policy. A detailed breakdown of embargo procedures for different types of abstracts is available on the IAS 2025 [embargo policy page](#).

All conference participants, presenters and media commit to adhere to this policy when they apply for a scholarship.

Data protection and sharing of contact details with third parties

The IAS will collect, process, transfer and store data subjects' personal data only for: (i) the preparation and execution of IAS 2025 and (ii) the preparation of future IAS, AIDS and HIVR4P conferences. Data protection is warranted in accordance with the Swiss Federal Act on Data Protection (nFAPD) and the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Data subjects' personal data will be retained securely and accessible only on a need-to-know basis by duly authorized persons. For further information, please read the IAS data [privacy policy](#).

The details of data subjects registering for IAS 2025 entered in the conference account – that is, full first and last name(s), date of birth, email, country of residence, nationality and, healthcare professional status – will be shared with the following parties:



- IAS 2025 Registration team, c/o K.I.T. Group, Germany

To facilitate border entry and visa applications, data subjects' details entered in the conference account and registration form (first and last name, home address, date of birth, passport number, nationality, country of residence, gender, email and telephone) may also be shared with the Rwandan immigration authorities.

The data subjects' details entered in the conference account (first and last name, home address, date of birth, passport number, nationality, country of residence and picture) may also be shared with Rwandan security authorities.

The contact details (full name, home address, participant type, email and healthcare professional status) of data subjects who have agreed to share their contact details when registering will be shared periodically with the following conference sponsors in countries where legislation might not ensure an adequate level of data protection:

- Gilead, USA
- Merck, Sharp & Dohme Corp., USA
- ViiV Healthcare, UK

The above-mentioned conference sponsors may use these contact details only to contact data subjects regarding activities during IAS 2025 or other communications that may be of related interest. Therefore, data might be passed on to third parties unless otherwise explicitly indicated by the data subject on the registration form.

The data subjects' who have agreed to receive satellites symposia and exhibition related communications when registering will periodically receive promotional emails related to satellite symposia and exhibition booths organized by third parties at IAS 2025.

The data subjects herewith authorize the IAS to collect, process and transfer their personal data to the above-listed third parties and authorities. The data subjects further expressly acknowledge and agree that any personal data disclosed in connection with the conference account and registration form will be subject to the laws of the country where it is transferred and may not be covered by Swiss law. The IAS cannot assure the data subjects that the laws and regulations in the recipient country will necessarily offer the same level of confidentiality or data protection as under Swiss law and may require the above-listed third parties and/or authorities to whom the personal data is transferred to disclose all or any part of the personal data to other authorities or third parties.

The IAS will nevertheless contractually ensure that data subjects' personal data will be processed by the above-listed third parties to the same extent as it is authorized for itself under the nFADP and the GDPR. The IAS will also ensure that all third parties that will process data subjects' personal data have implemented appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect data subjects' personal data against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration and unauthorized disclosure or access, and which provide a level of security appropriate to the risk represented by the processing and the nature of the data to be protected.

K.I.T. Group will collect and store all personal data for the preparation and execution of IAS 2025 and will not use it for any other purposes.



IAS 2025

During the registration process and the execution of the conference, the personal data of each data subject is processed. All personal data will be processed in accordance with the applicable data protection regulations, in particular, the GDPR and the German Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG).

Personal data will not be forwarded to a third party unless in accordance with Art. 6 Sec 1 lit a-f GDPR: (a) express consent; (b) performance or conclusion of a contract; (c) fulfilment of a legal obligation; (d) protection of vital interests of the data subject or another natural person; (e) public interest or exercise of official authority; and (f) legitimate interest of the data controller and balancing of interests.

In the course of participation in the conference, personal data may be processed by companies based in third countries outside the European Union. The data subject consents to such data processing insofar as it is necessary for their participation and the full use of the conference services.

For further details on data processing, your rights about information and access to personal data and how to contact the data protection officer, please refer to the IAS data [privacy policy](#).

Use of AI technology for application screening

Please note that as part of our application review process, we will use AI technology to assist in screening applications. This means that your application data will be shared with a third-party AI platform, which will process your application to look for plagiarism or other disqualifying factors. While we have not yet determined the specific AI platform we will use, we will select a provider with robust data protection and security measures in place.

By submitting your application, you acknowledge and consent to the use of AI technology in the screening process and to the sharing of your data with this platform. If you have any questions or concerns about this process, please [contact us](#) for more information.

Photo and video consent

In view of the fact that the events related to IAS 2025 will be filmed and photographed, you hereby agree that, by attending the conference, your image and/or voice may be recorded and published or broadcast through different media.

If you do not consent to close-up photography or close-up filmed material of you potentially featuring in IAS communications, please email media@iasociety.org.

Correspondence

Correspondence between the IAS Scholarship team and applicants will happen primarily via email. Please check your email and spam folder regularly for updates from the IAS.



Please consult the [scholarships page](#) and its [media scholarship FAQs](#) on the IAS 2025 section of the IAS website. Send any enquiries concerning your scholarship application that are not addressed in the FAQs to scholarships@ias2025.org.

The information in your application is considered confidential and will be used only for IAS 2025.

By completing and submitting this application, I state that:

- All information provided in this application is accurate.
- I will notify the IAS 2025 Scholarship team if my employment or professional status changes.
- I have leave from my employer to attend the full duration of IAS 2025 from 13 to 17 July inclusive, if awarded a scholarship, and any activity targeted at media personnel related to the conference.
- I will participate in the online evaluation of the IAS 2025 Scholarship Programme in the month following IAS 2025 if awarded a scholarship.
- I will share any coverage or media outputs I have produced with the Scholarship team (scholarships@ias2025.org) and the Media team (media@iasociety.org) within one month of the end of the conference. I will also share with the teams documentation of any coverage produced later than this within two weeks of it being published.
- I will ensure to the best of my ability that I meet the entry requirements for Rwanda, including any procedures for visa applications if awarded a scholarship.
- I will take full financial responsibility for my travel changes if I miss a flight due to circumstances that are not related to an emergency or an incident beyond my control (such as accident, sickness or force majeure) if awarded a scholarship.
- I agree to comply with the [Principles of participation in our conferences](#) if awarded a scholarship.

I understand and accept the above terms and conditions.