HIV SCIENCE GENEVA 2027

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 IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027. This category does not include public relations, communications or public affairs professionals working for for-profit organizations or agencies representing for-profit organizations. 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 30,000 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 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.

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. A letter from your editor stating the purpose of your assignment at IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027 (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 IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027 (on official company letterhead). This letter must clarify that you will be attending IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027 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 IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027 and includes the URL links to your social media accounts, which must have over 30,000 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.

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

No. If you receive a media scholarship, you will be automatically registered to attend both conferences. 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 HIVRP 2027 and IAS 2027 media registration to facilitate your attendance and coverage of the conferences.

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 conferences 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship can select the types of financial support they require to participate. Please note that, due to the high demand for scholarships, we may not be able to provide all selected recipients with the full level of support requested.

- Registration for HIV Science Geneva 2027 (IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027), from 10 to 15 July: In-person access to all conference sessions, satellite sessions and poster discussion sessions at both conferences and the IAS 2027 exhibition, as well as on-demand access to all session recordings
- Travel support (pre-paid economy class return flight or train ticket from the nearest international airport or train station in the applicant's country of residence), with arrival in Geneva on 9 July and departure on 16 July
- Accommodation (single room in a budget hotel), with check-in on 9 July and check-out on 16 July
- Daily living allowance for each conference day (six days from 10 to 15 July), with part of the allowance provided in the form of a gift card for meals

The HIV Science Geneva 2027 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme includes attending briefings, press conferences and site visits, as well as receiving support in the conference media centre.

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What is required from media scholarship recipients?

Media scholarship recipients must attend both IAS 2027 and HIVR4P 2027 and participate in all media scholarship programme activities. Please note that they are expected to arrive in Geneva on 9 July, attend both conferences in full, and depart on 16 July.

Media scholarship recipients are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Swiss 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, 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.

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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.

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 Wednesday, 20 January 2027, 23:59 CET. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Notifications will be emailed to applicants by the end of March 2027.

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 IAS Scholarship team at scholarships@iasociety.org. Due to the high volume of requests, we can guarantee responses only to questions that have not been addressed on the IAS website.