HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme terms and conditions

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

HIV Science Geneva 2027 comprises HIVR4P 2027, the 6th HIV Research for Prevention Conference, taking place from 10 to 12 July 2027, and IAS 2027, the 14th IAS Conference on HIV Science, taking place from 12 to 15 July 2027.

The HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme provides financial assistance to selected applicants from around the world to attend both HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 2027 in person. The programme is intended for individuals who would otherwise not have the financial means to attend these conferences. 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. IAS – the International AIDS Society – 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 HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 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 and/or YouTube. The IAS will examine applications on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility

The HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme is open to people belonging to one of the three categories above and who are at least 18 years old on 9 July 2027. 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.
- 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.

Media scholarship recipients must be available to attend both HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 2027 and any activity targeted at media personnel and scholarship recipients related to the conference. Please note that media scholarship recipients are expected to arrive in Geneva on 9 July, attend both conferences in full, and depart on 16 July.

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 Wednesday, 20 January 2027, 23:59 Central European Time (CET).

Please submit only one online application form. Multiple submissions from the same person (even using different email addresses) will result in all applications being discarded. Identical or partially identical applications will be considered fraudulent and will be discarded.

Applications generated entirely by an AI tool will be considered invalid.

You may save your application as a draft and return to complete it later. However, to be considered, the full application (including the supporting documents) must be completed and submitted by 20 January 2027, 23:59 CET.

All applicants will be notified by email about the outcome of their application by the end of March 2027. Successful applicants will have 10 days from the date of the notification email to accept their scholarship offer. Please ensure that you accept within this timeframe so that the IAS can proceed with the necessary logistical arrangements for your participation.

The following supporting documentation must be uploaded for your application to be complete and valid.

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

1. A letter from your editor stating the purpose of your assignment at HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 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 HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 2027 (on official company letterhead). This letter must clarify that you will be attending HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 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 HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 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.

Attendance type and visa requirements

We strongly encourage you to review Switzerland's entry requirements and ensure that you comply with them. If you require a visa to enter Switzerland, you will be responsible for applying for the visa, allowing sufficient time for processing of the application, and ensuring that you meet the visa application requirements, including providing full and correct documentation.

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 Swiss immigration authorities to assist in the immigration process. However, please note that the decision to grant a visa lies solely with the Swiss government, and the IAS will not directly contact embassies and consulates on behalf of delegates.

If the IAS changes the conference format to fully virtual due to events beyond its control, all in-person scholarships will be converted to virtual scholarships.

Media scholarship benefits

Please note that not all of the financial support requested (travel, accommodation and daily living allowance) may be granted. Full scholarships will be awarded in a limited number of cases.

The HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme will not reimburse any costs you have incurred prior to receiving a scholarship. Therefore, you are advised to avoid pre-booking accommodation or 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 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.

Conference embargo policy

All HIV Science Geneva 2027 abstracts are released to media under a strict embargo policy. A detailed breakdown of embargo procedures for different types of abstracts is available on the embargo policy page.

All delegates 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 (HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 2027); 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 entered in the conference account – that is, full first and last name(s), date of birth, email, country of residence and healthcare professional status – will be shared with the following parties:

- Registration team, c/o K.I.T. Group, Germany
- Presentation support and app provider, c/o Key 4 Events, France

For media scholarship recipients awarded travel and/or accommodation support, the IAS will share the personal data necessary to arrange and manage these services with its appointed travel agency and accommodation management provider.

Data subjects' details entered in the conference account and registration form (first and last name, date of birth, gender, passport number, nationality, country of residence and email) may also be shared with Swiss immigration and 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 Sciences, 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 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.

In addition, certain contact details (full name, participant type, email, country, zip code and healthcare professional status) may be shared with conference sponsors using lead capture when data subjects voluntarily allow their badge to be scanned during the conference.

The data subjects who have agreed to receive satellite sessions and exhibition-related communications when registering will periodically receive promotional emails related to satellite sessions and exhibition booths organized by third parties at HIV Science Geneva 2027.

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 and authorities 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 HIV Science Geneva 2027 and will not use it for any other purposes.

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 a data subject's participation in the conference, personal data may be processed by companies based in 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.

Photo and video consent

In view of the fact that the events related to HIV Science Geneva 2027 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, please inform the photographer or videographer immediately during the event. Following the conference, you may also request the removal of your image from IAS communications by contacting media@iasociety.org.

If a media representative wishes to film or take photographs at HIV Science Geneva 2027, it is the media representative's responsibility to first seek permission from all those being filmed or photographed in line with host city or any other applicable laws or regulations.

HIV SCIENCE GENEVA 2027

Correspondence

Communication between the Scholarships 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 FAQs and the media scholarship FAQs. If any enquiries concerning your scholarship application are not addressed in the FAQs, direct these to scholarships@iasociety.org.

The information in your application will be treated as confidential.

Applicant declaration

By completing and submitting this application, I state that:

- All information provided in this application is accurate.
- I will notify the IAS Scholarship team if my employment, professional status or country of residence changes.
- I have obtained leave from my employer, or I am otherwise available to attend both HIVR4P 2027 and IAS 2027 in full, arriving on 9 July in Geneva and departing on 16 July, if awarded a scholarship.
- I will participate in the online evaluation of the HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme in the month following the conferences if awarded a scholarship.
- I will participate in the online impact survey of the HIV Science Geneva 2027 Media Scholarship Programme six months after the conferences if awarded a scholarship.
- I will share any coverage or media outputs I have produced with the Media team (media@iasociety.org) within one month of the end of the conference. I will also share 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 Switzerland, including any procedures for visa applications, if awarded a scholarship.
- I will take full financial responsibility for my travel changes in case 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 IAS conferences code of conduct if awarded a scholarship.

By submitting an HIV Science Geneva 2027 scholarship application, I acknowledge that I have read, understood and accepted these terms and conditions.