CALL FOR TRAINING AWARDS 2027

Aims

IHSS Training Awards enable students and young scientists to:

- have access to sophisticated facilities and training in research laboratories where humic substances and natural organic matter are investigated;
- establish new collaborative links and the exchange of knowledge between laboratories;
- test innovative ideas that may develop into potential collaborative research projects.

Conditions

Proposals may be submitted by MSc and PhD students, as well as by early-career scientists under the age of 35 at the call deadline. The applicant has to be member of the IHSS. The award will only be granted one time for one specific applicant.

Applications must demonstrate the potential importance of the training period for pursuing a career in humic substances science, natural organic matter research or a related field. The award is meant to cover a significant part of economy travel expenses, eligible living expenses, and the subsistence for one to three months. The award does not cover analytical fees, instrumental fees, personnel costs or laboratory supplies.

Evaluation process

Awards will be granted each year in which IHSS issues a Call for Proposals. The number of awards will be decided by the IHSS Board after the evaluation of applications. The emphasis will be placed on creativity and scientific excellence as selection criteria. This applies at all levels: applicant's CV, quality and suitability of the host research group/lab.

The proposal must be in English. After it is submitted, it **cannot be altered**.

The Application Form (provided at the IHSS homepage) must be accompanied by:

1. **Curriculum Vitae** of the applicant. The CV should include: personal data, education, awards, publications, presentations at conferences (give the titles in English),
2. **title and keywords** of the proposed research work (up to 5),
3. an **abstract** of the research work (50 to 70 words),
4. **summary** of the proposed research (up to 1000 words),
5. **a signed letter of invitation** from the host institution, detailing the nature and extent of institutional support for the applicant (scanned),
6. **a signed letter of recommendation** by a person from home institution, detailing the nature and extent of institutional support for the applicant (scanned),
7. **brief description of the host research group and accessibility of required infrastructure**
8. **a preliminary time schedule** of research activities (1/4 page),
9. **budget (table, in US$**), including itinerary and fare for travel (table, in US$), estimation of costs from an airline (travel agency or website, give costs in US$, including conversion rate), and estimation of costs for accommodation, meals, and local transportation, confirmed by the host institution (in US$).

The application has to be sent **in one pdf-file**, according to the order given above (all margins must be at least 3 cm and headers and footers not less than 2 cm; font size 12).

Applicants should explain the **scientific background** and rationale of the visit as well as its **novel aspects**. A clear **justification of the need** for visiting the host institution, and outline of the **expected benefits** of the training and /or outcome of the scientific work are welcome. All documents have to be **in English** including the publication list.

All of the applicants will be notified by **end of March 2027**. The awardees will be sent a check or bank transfer in US$ corresponding to 75% of the total amount awarded by the IHSS prior to the travel to the training site.

At the conclusion of the research programme, the awardee **must submit technical and financial reports** to IHSS according to the guidelines given. The final 25% of his/her training award will be adjusted as needed and the balance will then be transferred to the awardee.

The technical and financial reports are **due no later than 3 months** after the end of the training period. Both reports must be approved by both the host and home supervisors prior to submission to IHSS**. Every publication that arises wholly or in part through this IHSS training grant should include an acknowledgment of IHSS support.**

IHSS will review all submitted technical reports and will offer one free registration to the next biennial IHSS meeting for the author of the best technical report, so that the author may share the research results with the membership of IHSS.

The Application has to be sent before deadline to

Prof. Heike Knicker
(heknicker@ig.csic.es)

and to

Prof. Marios Drosos
(marios.drosos@unibas.it)

Deadline

December 31st, 2026

More information and respective templates are available at:
https://humic-substances.org/awards