



**IAS** 2025

## 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.

#### 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 X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube.

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 [IAS 2025 profile](#). This form will ask applicants to provide information about their background, experience, motivation for attending the conference and the potential benefits of attending to their community.

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



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### **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.

## **Is a letter of support required for applicants who are freelancers, consultants and/or social media influencers?**

Yes, as outlined in the previous section.

## **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



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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 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 on-demand registration**, including:
  - In-person access to all conference sessions, satellite sessions, pre-conferences, the poster exhibition and the exhibition
  - On-demand access to the recordings of all conference sessions, satellite sessions, pre-conferences and e-posters throughout the conference and until 19 August 2025
- **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 the duration of the conference (some of the allowance may be provided in the form of lunch vouchers for use at the conference venue)

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.

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

## What is required from media scholarship recipients?

Media scholarship recipients must agree to be in Kigali and attend the full duration of IAS 2025 from 13 to 17 July, inclusive, and attend and participate in all media scholarship programme activities.



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Media scholarship recipients are responsible for informing themselves about Rwanda's immigration policies and obtaining a visa, if required. Media scholarship recipients who had to pay for their visas will be reimbursed up to USD 50 at the conference.

### 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.

### Do I need to pay to submit a scholarship application?

No. There is no charge to apply for a media scholarship. If you encounter any websites, videos or other instances where the scholarship is being listed or promoted at cost, please notify us at [scholarships@ias2025.org](mailto:scholarships@ias2025.org).

### 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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## Can I complete my application over time?

Yes. You can save a draft of your application form to complete any time before 22 January 2025, 23:59 CET.

## What is the application deadline and when are applicants notified?

Applications must be completed and submitted by 22 January 2025 at 23:59 CET. No applications will be accepted after this deadline. Notifications will be emailed to applicants in early April 2025.

For logistical or other enquiries about the scholarship programme, please refer to the [general scholarship FAQs](#). If you have further questions, please reach out to the Scholarship team at [scholarships@ias2025.org](mailto:scholarships@ias2025.org). Due to the high volume of requests, we can guarantee responses only to questions that have not been addressed on the IAS website.