

REPORT

The Report and By-Laws are both unchanged since January 2021 meeting, and await further discussion by the EC in light of the Task Force's Interim Report in June 2021

[THE NOTES IN BLUE FONT WERE ADDED AFTER THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE 2021 TO REFLECT THE DECISIONS TAKEN]

Submitted by the Chair of the Committee

Helena Carvalhão Buescu

Composition of the Committee: Helena Buescu (chair), Ipshita Chanda, Stefan Buchenberger, Paulo Horta, Peter Hajdu.

NB. Depending on the discussion and the decisions taken in the next ICLA EC meeting, the possibility of a merging of the TGC with the ECARE Committee might be envisaged.

Travel grants committee report

This committee was proposed and formed by EC decision at the EC meeting at Shenzhen in 2019.

The purpose was to encourage participation of early career researchers and graduate students in ICLA activities, by providing financial assistance to scholars at these stages of their careers, so that they can attend the ICLA triennial Congresses.

Through the deliberations of the committee over the year, in preparation for the L'Aquila EC meeting for 2020, the following suggestions have taken shape.

They can be divided into the "functional" and the "academic"

FUNCTIONAL

1. We suggest that the reduced conference registration fee for early career researchers and students, followed in Paris, Vienna and Macau, be continued, as members were unanimous in their opinion that the reduced fee would give the conference organizers some income, while easing the financial burden for the participants
2. Regarding actual travel subsidies for early career researchers (including non-tenured faculty) and students: we have two models to put forward for consideration by the EC.

2a. There will be three categories of grants, with a fixed number of grants, i.e. a fixed sum allotted, for each category. The selection will be based on the evaluation of the accepted proposals for presentation at the Congress. The categories are

1. Graduate students at any stage of their degree
2. Early career researchers (up to 5 years following PhD award and/or employed as non-tenured faculty within that period) **[It was agreed at the Executive Council meeting in June 2021 that no time limit from doctoral award be specified, to recognize different life circumstances]**
3. Grant to senior scholars (who? On what basis?) **[the Executive Council meeting agreed that these would be scholars whose circumstances do not allow them to finance their travel]**

2b. There will be a single category of grant; the sum will be dependent on availability for that particular year; it will be disbursed to the largest possible number of awardees from among the categories 2a1 and 2a2 above, based on evaluation of their accepted proposals. **[2b was the model agreed by the Executive Council meeting; categories 2a1, 2a2 and 2a3 would all be included]**

2c. In case of 2a, instead of a fixed number of grants for each category, a maximum number in each may be decided upon, given the total amount available, to keep the awards flexible – if we do not find adequate quality applications in one category, we should be able to divert the amount to another category to make full use of available funds to support early career researchers.

3. Given that the work of the Travel Grants committee and the ECARE committee overlap, coordination between these committees is very welcome, and necessary. Coordinated operations will increase the scope and perception of the goals of both committees, which is to increase the involvement of ICLA and early career researchers in our discipline, wherever they are located, through a direct and coordinated involvement of these 2 committees.
4. We suggest also a direct and coordinated involvement of both these committees with the national associations;
 - 4a. where there are facilities for early career researchers, as in ACLA, representatives from there could participate in the ECARE deliberations, both academic and functional.
 - 4b. the Travel Grants committee could collaborate with the national associations, by requesting space on their websites and in any membership or publicity material circulated by them, to create awareness about the facilities provided by ICLA to student and early career scholars who are members of national associations, namely: subsidized registration at ICLA congresses, membership fee waiver for ICLA and the availability of Travel Grants. The ECARE and Travel Grants committee members or representatives could participate in business sessions of conferences organised by national associations, in order to present the opportunities offered by ICLA to students and early career researchers;
 - 4c. A similar joint presence at ICLA Congresses, through a reception for ECR and students as organised at Vienna and Macau by ECARE, (there was no travel grants committee then, hence we could not participate).
5. The non-voting/voting presence of a representative of ECARE from among the students and scholars who are part of that committee has been deliberated upon, with no consensus. Different experiences from different national associations have not yielded any final decision. We suggest that the engaged presence in the ICLA EC, of members of ECARE and the Travel Grants committee, along with expanded and continued outreach to national associations and to the constituency that these 2 committees are formed to support and facilitate, may serve the

purpose of keeping the ICLA responsive and alert to the needs and demands of students and scholars, who are the future of our discipline. This may work better than inducting a single student/early career researcher, a move which we have not formed any firm opinion on and cannot recommend without reserve.

ACADEMIC

During our deliberations, we realized that the matter of events for early career researchers and students and prizes for various academic endeavours, are not exactly within our remit.

These were shared with the ECARE committee, who have taken our suggestions into account.

As a committee we have provided to ECARE committee, our inputs about list of prizes and our suggestions/additions the languages in which the prizes may be offered, the categories of recipients, the application process, eligibility and selection. The suggestions consolidated will be placed before the EC in the report of ECARE committee.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Apart from the above, the deliberations of our committee also focused on the present situation and the immediate future.

The primary question, for the Travel Grants Committee, is whether travel will be possible, and if not, whether travel grants themselves will be earmarked and available for spending.

In the event that there are funds available, but no travel possible, can we think of utilizing the funds for students and early career researcher activities? Is it possible to utilize the funds for a project (or projects) involving networks of early career scholars with senior scholars mentoring? Can early career scholars themselves create and run such a network for a period, in order to utilize the funds? How can these funds be utilized if a “blended mode” of operation becomes feasible by 2022? Can we make an online conference for early career researchers an annual or at least biannual event hosted by different national associations, especially when we are able to work online? Can this be away to utilize the funds in the event that travel is not possible (though how much can be utilized thus is a question).

Respectfully submitted,

Helena Carvalhão Buescu

Lisboa, November 27, 2020. [\[Additions made after the Executive Council of 9-11 June 2021\]](#)

The Report and By-Laws are both unchanged since the January 2021 meeting, and await further discussion by the EC in light of the Task Force's Interim Report in June 2021

[NOTE ADDED AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, JUNE 2021: These by-laws will be revised according to the decisions taken at the Executive Council, and will be published in due course on the Committee's page on the ICLA website]

ICLA Committee on Travel Grants

By-laws

Preamble

During the meeting of the Executive Council (Bureau) of the ICLA in Shenzhen, on ... 2019, the function and procedures of the Committee on Travel Grants (see ICLA Bulletin ..., no. ... of, p. ...) were set forth. The by-laws of the committee were approved by the Executive Council (Bureau) of the ICLA in L'Aquila, on ... 2020.

The Committee on Travel Grants (hereafter "the Committee") is an administrative committee established for the purpose of administering travel grants to encourage participation of graduate students and early career researchers (and tenured faculty members ?) in ICLA activities, by providing financial assistance to scholars at these stages of their careers, so that they may attend the ICLA triennial Congresses.

Article 1

Either:

The Committee awards two (three?) categories of grants, with a fixed number of grants, i.e. a fixed sum allotted, for each category. The selection will be based on the evaluation of the accepted proposals for presentation at the Congress. The categories are

1. Graduate students at any stage of their degree
2. Early career researchers (up to 5 years following PhD award and/or employed as non-tenured faculty within that period)
3. Grant to senior scholars (who? On what basis?)

Instead of a fixed number of grants for each category, a maximum number in each may be decided upon, given the total amount available, to keep the awards flexible – if there are not enough adequate quality applications in one category, it should be able to divert the amount to another category to make full use of available funds to support early career researchers.

Or:

There will be a single category of grant; the sum will be dependent on availability for that particular year; it will be disbursed to the largest possible number of awardees from among the categories 1 and 2 (and 3?) above, based on evaluation of their accepted proposals

Article 2

The Committee will seek to collaborate with the national associations, by requesting space on their websites and in any membership or publicity material circulated by them, to create awareness about the facilities provided by ICLA to graduate student and early career scholars who are members of national associations, namely : subsidized registration at ICLA congresses, membership fee waiver for ICLA and the availability of Travel Grants. ECARE and Travel Grants Committee members or representatives may participate in business sessions of conferences organised by national associations in order to present the opportunities offered by ICLA to students and early career researchers.

Article 3

The Committee is responsible to the Executive Council of the ICLA and will annually submit a formal account of its activities to the Executive Council, before its meeting. The Chairperson of the Committee is entitled to attend the meetings of the Executive Council of the ICLA as an observer.

The membership of the Committee shall be re-constituted after every election. It will consist of at least four members:

- the Chair of the Committee, appointed by the incoming President of the ICLA (his or her name will be made public at the first meeting of the newly-elected Executive Council (henceforth called the “EC”);
- three members named by the incoming Chair of the Committee in consultation with the President of the Association.

In appointing members of the Committee, every effort should be made to ensure broad geographic representation. Members of the Committee should also have a broad familiarity with the history and structure of the ICLA. All members of the Committee, the Chair included, will be limited to serving two three-year terms.

Article 4

During the execution of its task, the Committee may seek the advice and guidance of the EC, of past officers of the Association (for historical memory) as well as other persons who may have particular expertise about matters relevant to the working of the Committee.

Article 5

The president of the Association or a person designated by the president may attend *ex officio* meetings of the Committee.

Article 6

Votes are decided by a simple majority. The quorum consists of half of the committee members plus one.

Article 7

The Executive Council of the Association has the right to dissolve the Committee.

Article 8

A motion to advise the Executive Council to alter or add to these by-laws must be made by at least two members of the Committee. Any change in the by-laws must be approved by the Executive Council of the Association.