



People living with HIV set the agenda: Apply for a scholarship for AIDS2010

The Global Network of People living with HIV (GNP+) calls on people living with HIV to share their knowledge and experience and apply for scholarships to attend AIDS 2010.

AIDS2010 the 18th International AIDS Conference will be held in Vienna, Austria from 18 to 23 July 2010. Under the slogan *Rights Here, Right Now* the conference emphasizes the importance of the respect for human rights in the response to HIV.

It is not easy to get a scholarship. Out of almost 10,000 people that applied for a scholarship for AIDS2008 in Mexico, almost 3000 received financial assistance, but only 810 out of the total received a full scholarship. Almost half of these were from the region. Less as a third had indicated they are living with HIV.¹

According to GNP+, people living with HIV worldwide know the best how the state of the human rights is in the HIV response. GNP+ therefore encourages people living with HIV to register for AIDS2010 and apply for a scholarship.

Note you will need to apply for a scholarship before February 10, 2010.

Note that when you are submitting an abstract or workshop your scholarship application will run through the abstract or workshop application. Read the GNP+ briefs on abstract and workshop submission for more information.

This brief will take you through the process of applying for a scholarship in 3 simple steps.

Step 1: Prepare yourself well

It is important to prepare yourself before applying for a scholarship. Applying for a scholarship you will have to do online, and you will need to finalize your application in one session. It is therefore recommended to prepare your application in a word processor before starting the scholarship application.

There are two basic types of scholarships: International Scholarships and Media Scholarships. The *International Scholarship Programme* is open to everyone, but priority is given to people for whom participation will help their work in their own communities, and those who are able to best transfer skills and knowledge acquired at the conference. A limited number of *media scholarships* are available for those who work for media with a strong interest in HIV.

Before preparing your scholarship application carefully read the scholarship guidelines, including the terms and conditions: <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pageId=181>. This webpage also includes four different powerpoint tutorials on how to apply for a scholarship produced by the AIDS2010 organisers, which we recommend you to view.

Note the tutorials are large files (over 1 MB) and may take some time to download depending on your internet connection:

- [International Scholarship applicants \(general delegates\)](#)
- [Media Scholarship applicants](#)
- [Programme Activity or Workshop scholarship applicants](#)
- [Abstract Scholarship applicants](#)

If you still have questions regarding these steps, you can read the Frequently Asked Questions sheet (FAQs) at <http://www.aids2010.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=168> and the Community Guide Tipsheet for scholarship applicants accessible here http://www.aids2010community.org/?page_id=689

Step 2: Create a profile:

To apply for a scholarship you will need to create your own profile at the AIDS2010 website. Profiles from former conferences are still active. To create a profile you need an email address. You can create your profile here: <http://80.80.232.235/>

Step 3: Apply for a scholarship

Note it is not possible to save your scholarship application. You will need to complete it and submit it in one session. It is therefore recommended to prepare your application in a word processor before starting to complete the scholarship application. To help you, prepare your materials according to the following paragraphs.

- Most of the questions on the scholarship application are related to personal details and work experience.
- There are also four open essay questions, which ask to provide more information on:
 - a) the main areas with which your organization is involved; and
 - b) your main tasks in your HIV work.
- In addition, you will need to:
 - c) motivate within 200 words why you wish to attend this conference; and
 - d) explain within 200 words how your participation in AIDS2010 will benefit your organization and the community you are working in.
- Note you will have to provide a reference (manager, colleague, peer) and this person needs to write you a letter of recommendation. You will need to upload this letter of recommendation separately from your scholarship application through your conference profile. After submitting your scholarship log in again to your profile, where you will find the possibility to upload documents. This needs to be done before the deadline of February 10, 2010. Without this letter of recommendation, your scholarship is incomplete and will not be accepted.

Once you have prepared these materials you can log in to your profile and submit your scholarship application online.

Do not forget to submit your scholarship application before February 10, 2010.

We are looking forward to see you at AIDS2010.

Sources:

- ICASO (2009). *Guide to Community Involvement for AIDS2010*. Available online at <http://www.aids2010community.org/>

ⁱ International AIDS Society (2009). *Evaluation Report 17th International AIDS Conference AIDS 2008*. Retrieved from: <http://www.iasociety.org/Web/WebContent/File/AIDS%202008%20Evaluation%20Report.pdf>