ICA Research Scholarships 2014/15

Background
The International Cartographic Association (ICA) will consider applications for Research Grants to support individuals in advancing their career in Cartography and GIScience to the benefit of the ICA community.

ICA Research Scholarships are entitled to reach the following aims:

- to foster academic research in the domain of Cartography and GIScience
- to establish contact between young scientists and ICA Commissions
- to support young scientists to be able to actively contribute to ICA activities and events, such as especially International Cartographic Conferences
- to establish opportunities for young scientists within ICA publications and conferences

This document provides the context and procedures that apply to those seeking grant funding. Applicants should elaborate their qualifications for participation as detailed as possible and submit their proposal together with the obligatory documentation in due time to Secretary-General Prof. László Zentai.

Research Scholarships
Grants to support Young Scientist applicants have a maximum value of Euro 1,000. The goal of these grants is to stimulate young scientists to direct their careers toward fundamental studies in the fields of Cartography and GISciences. Applicants are responsible for choosing a mentor for their research from an ICA Commission. A letter of agreement from the proposed mentor must be submitted with the application. Opportunities are made for applicants who will have received their graduate degree not more than five years prior to the application or are currently in a PhD status. A letter of confirmation from the PhD Supervisor must be submitted with the application.

The scholarship can only be awarded to the applicant once.

These scholarships are intended to help provide research experiences that will inspire and rejuvenate the awardees and their research programs. It is anticipated that participation in this program will have long-term benefits for the applicant, the mentors and ICA.

A total number of 10 scholarships for the term of 2014-2015 is available.
Submission of Proposals
In order to obtain an ICA Research Scholarship the following information have to be provided:

1. Applicant name, address, e-mail, CV;
2. Proof of the applicant’s most recent year’s education or degree;
3. Letter of endorsement of the supervisor of the PhD or Master Thesis;
4. Letter of mentoring of an ICA Commission Chair or Vice-Chair;
5. Letter of support from the ICA National Delegate of the respective home country of the applicant;
6. A description of the projected research including explicit statements in relation to
   a. ICA mission
   b. ICA Research Agenda
   c. the respective ICA Commission Terms of References
   d. The activity focus

Submissions of applications shall be sent to the ICA Secretary-General before 1. January 2015.

Evaluation Criteria and Process
The ICA Executive Committee recommendations for funding will be based on the following evaluation criteria:
1. The priority given to the activity category by the ICA EC;
2. Relevance of applicant’s research goals to ICA missions and activities, especially in respect to ICA Commission activities;
3. Academic and/or professional performance of the applicant, especially in the potential or commitment for publishing within the ICA publication streams;
4. Quality of proposed institution and mentor;
5. Regional needs for skilled, experienced professionals;
6. Enhancement of international cooperation objectives of the ICA;
7. Existing record in activities related to ICA;
8. The application contains all specified information.

The ICA EC will act as Evaluation Committee and shall recommend to the Treasurer of ICA those applicants qualified for grant funding.

Scholarship Disburse
The successful applicant will need to identify an ICA event she/he will actively contribute in person. It is expected, that this will be preferably the upcoming International Cartographic Conference (2015, Rio de Janeiro).

The ICA Treasurer will pay the given scholarship amount to the selected scholar in person at the ICA event.