



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COLLABORATION (WISC) PROGRAM 2001 - 2003

OVERVIEW

The Women's International Science Collaboration Program (WISC) is a partnership between the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Science Foundation to increase the participation of women in international scientific research. WISC awards on a competitive basis small travel grants to U.S. scientists to plan and design new collaborations with colleagues in Central/Eastern and Western Europe, the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, Near East, Middle East, Africa, the Americas, Pacific, and Asia. These activities are expected to lead to full research proposals that are submitted to the National Science Foundation or other funders. **Please note that for 2003 and future rounds, Western Europe has been added to the geographical areas being covered.**

Each grant, **up to \$4,000 or \$5,000** (depending on region), will provide travel and living support for a US scientist to visit a partner country. When appropriate, an additional grant of up to \$4,000 or \$5,000 may be made to an American co-PI for the same purpose. The grant does not cover salary or institutional expenses (e.g., overhead). US scientists can spend up to four weeks in the partner country to plan and design a research collaboration. Grant funds can also be used to cover material and supplies needed during the stay. With the approval of AAAS administrators, funds can be used to support a second visit to the partner country or for a foreign partner to travel to the US when such a visit is deemed necessary. The grants are not to be used for the sole purpose of attending conferences or workshops or teaching or training. The program is administered by AAAS. The grantee's home institution will be responsible for overseeing the grantee's adherence to NSF and federal guidelines regarding administration of the grant.

ELIGIBILITY

Men and women scientists who have their Ph.D.s or equivalent research experience are eligible to apply. They must be US citizens or permanent residents of the US. Applications from male co-PIs must be accompanied by an application from a female co-PI as part of a US research team, except as noted below for the Americas. Graduate students (Ph.D. candidates) are also eligible to apply, if they will be conducting research in an established Ph.D. program in the US. Government employees can only apply if they also are affiliated with another institution eligible to receive NSF grants (e.g., an adjunct professorship at a university).

Scientists who have received their doctoral degrees within the past six years will receive special consideration, as will scientists applying to work with colleagues in less frequently represented countries and regions.

Scientists and engineers who have an existing NSF grant and are eligible for a NSF international supplement should not apply to this program. Please contact NSF's International Programs Staff (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/int/>), who can advise regarding applications for NSF international supplements.

ELIGIBLE RESEARCH FIELDS

Only fields funded by the National Science Foundation and interdisciplinary research cutting across these fields are eligible, including archaeology and anthropology; astronomy; biochemistry, biophysics and genetics; biological sciences; chemistry; computer science; earth sciences; economics; engineering; environmental sciences; geography; history and philosophy of science; linguistics; mathematics; physics; political science; non-clinically oriented psychology; science education and communication; science and

technology policy; and sociology. For further information on fields and interdisciplinary research, please visit NSF's website at <http://www.nsf.gov>.

No proposals involving agricultural production; drug testing or development; research on the diagnosis, etiology or treatment of physical or mental diseases or disorders; or the use of animal models of human diseases or conditions will be accepted. Proposals outside the scope of the program will not be considered.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

For **Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union**, partnerships from the following countries will be considered: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

For **East Asia and Pacific** region, the eligible countries are: Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Western Pacific Islands.

All countries in the **Americas, Africa, Near East, Middle East, South Asia, and Western Europe** are eligible.

SELECTION

Proposal reviewers will keep in mind the basic requirements of scientific relevance and impact. The evaluation of each proposal will take into account:

1. applicant's technical abilities (scientific accomplishments to date, including significance of publications in peer-reviewed journals and independent research);
2. quality of the proposed project (specificity and significance of the project's objectives, including expected contributions to the specific discipline and to the greater scientific community);
3. feasibility of carrying out the proposed project (capabilities of proposed hosts in the research area, including availability of required facilities; ability of visitor to work in a non-Western environment; and ability of visitor to communicate effectively with colleagues); and
4. prospects for long-term collaboration following the completion of the current project.

These issues should be addressed in a five-page description of the project (see "To Apply").

Applicants proposing partnerships involving Africa, Near East, Middle East, or South Asia, should note the following additional guidelines:

1. Where feasible, applications are encouraged with foreign partners who are women and/or early in their professional careers (within six years of receiving their Ph.D.).
2. Applicants are encouraged, as part of their long-term research partnerships, to give attention to activities that enable knowledge transfer and/or capacity building (e.g., through short-term training in specific skills or techniques) for their foreign partners.
3. In addition to support for an US scientist to visit a partner country, applicants may propose travel by a foreign partner to the US. Justification for such travel must be provided and it must be included within the \$5,000 award limit.
4. As a result of determinations by the US Government, AAAS may not be permitted to award grants to support visits to or the hosting of researchers from certain countries and/or institutions. Please contact the appropriate AAAS administrator for a current list.

Applicants proposing partnerships with scientists and engineers in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean should take note of the following:

1. Where feasible, applications are encouraged with foreign partners who are women and/or early in their professional careers (within six years of receiving their Ph.D.).
2. Applications from male PIs must EITHER be accompanied by an application from a female co-PI as part of a US research team OR propose a partnership with a female researcher in the partner country.
3. In addition to support for a US scientist to visit a partner country, applicants may propose travel by a foreign partner to the US. Justification for such travel must be provided and it must be included within the \$4,000 award limit.

CONTACT INFORMATION BY REGION

For Central/Eastern and Western Europe and the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union:

Curtis Cook

E-mail: ccook@aaas.org

Tel: (202) 326-7027

For East Asia and Pacific:

Suteera Nagavajara

E-mail: snagavaj@aaas.org

Tel: (202)326-6496

For Africa, Near East, Middle East, and South Asia:

John Schoneboom

E-mail: jschoneb@aaas.org

For Americas:

Marina Ratchford

E-mail: mratchfo@aaas.org

Tel: (202) 326-6490

TO APPLY

The application should include the following:

1. Grant application form (form provided)
2. Short (maximum of five pages) description of the project;
3. Curriculum Vitae of the U.S. PI, including a list of publications or other relevant activities;
4. Description of the foreign institution that will be collaborating;
5. CV of the collaborating foreign partner; and
6. Correspondence from foreign colleague indicating a willingness to cooperate, to assist with obtaining a visa and housing, and to assure a safe and secure working environment.
7. Proposed Budget (form provided)

In addition, the applicant must certify in writing (through a cover letter or a note appended to the application form) that overhead or other indirect charges will be waived by her institution.

All application materials should be in English.

Both the Grant Application Form and the Proposed Budget Form can be downloaded from our webpage at: <http://www.aaas.org/international/wiscnew.shtml>. If you are unable to download these forms, please contact the appropriate regional contact.

Please mail original plus seven copies of the entire application package to:

(Please list AAAS contact)
WISC Travel Grant
American Association for the Advancement of Science
International Office
1200 New York Avenue, NW, 7th floor
Washington, DC 20005

DEADLINES

- **January 15, 2003**
- **July 15, 2003**

All applications must be postmarked by these deadlines.

GRANT CONDITIONS

All grants will be administered by and disbursed through the grant recipient's institution. Visa, travel, and other arrangements should be in compliance with NSF and other federal regulations.

AAAS grants will not cover overhead or other indirect charges assessed by universities (or by other institutional organizations). The applicant must certify in writing (through a cover letter) that such charges will be waived by her institution. AAAS grants do not provide for salary replacement.

The AAAS shall have no responsibility for costs incurred beyond those covered in the grant as itemized in the grant application and which are reasonable, allowable and allocable to the effort undertaken. **Expenses are not to exceed \$4,000 (for Central/Eastern and Western Europe, the Newly Independent States of the former Soviet Union, the Americas) or \$5,000 (for Near East, Middle East, Africa, Pacific, and Asia).**

AAAS policy and the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 1517) (Fly America Act) require the use of U.S. Flag carriers for international air travel to the extent these carriers are available. Business or First Class travel is not permitted. In preparing their application budgets, grantees should obtain fare quotations so as to ensure that their requests are reasonable. AAAS staff may review air travel expense requests to ensure reasonableness. If other funds are used for travel, documentation supporting this action must be provided.

The budget will also be evaluated by AAAS staff and may be reduced if it exceeds reasonable costs.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Within three months of the trip, the grantee will be required to submit a trip report (according to the WISC trip report guidelines), which includes an evaluation of the trip, and a progress report on submitting a formal research proposal.

The grantee's institution will also be responsible for submitting an expense report of travel funds (form provided) with copies of original receipts within 60 days. Any excess funds will be returned to AAAS or plans to expend the excess funds (i.e. a second visit by the American to the foreign partners, a first visit by the partner to the US; equipment or supply purchases to enhance communications, etc.) will be outlined in the final report. Upon approval from AAAS, the grantee can use the excess funds. In this case, another report will be due within three months of the initial report.