



INGSA Research Associates Grant Programme 2019

Call for Applications

Overview

The International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) is a collaborative platform for policy makers, practitioners, national academies, and academics to share experience, build capacity and develop theoretical and practical approaches to the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government.

In line with this mission, INGSA is offering six professional development and research grants to support early-to-mid career researchers or policy practitioners in Low and Middle Income Countries.

For this funding round we are particularly interested in the policy maker perspective. As such, we are seeking **research projects** that help to answer this question:

“What are the challenges in your country/region/organisation limiting the use of scientific evidence by policy makers? How will your research contribute to overcoming them?”

Each grant recipient will manage and conduct a research project, which may include implementation actions, that answers this question. The research project could for example be a case study or broader, systematic analysis that explores the demand for science advice in a given country or region. The research should identify gaps, develop and test new contextualized models for science-advice, highlight best practices, analyse the current state of demand for science advice and make policy recommendations. Successful applicants will become INGSA Research Associates for the period of the grant (February 2019 – November 2019).

The grant will be an opportunity for researchers and policy practitioners to:

- undertake professional development activities and research with the support of INGSA;
- present their work and network with other INGSA Research Associates at INGSA’s international meeting (event to be confirmed 2019);
- build peer and professional networks & visibility through INGSA activities and communications; and
- develop their career through publications and research activities that support the INGSA mission.

INGSA operates under the auspices of the International Science Council (ISC). Grants are made possible through a partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Priority research theme

It is becoming increasingly evident that the biggest barrier, at least in many countries, to better use of evidence in policy is how to create demand from within the policy and political community.

Notably, there are a number of academies and commissions in low and middle income countries that do a good job of producing unsolicited reports which, predictably, are never read or absorbed.

While scientists are very receptive to the idea and skills behind evidence-informed policy making, how to really impact on the policy side is much harder.

In this context, we also need to consider the policy making environment and the ability of the policy maker to receive and process advice, their interest in advice, the ability to find scientists/institutions and the ability to direct research agendas to policy-relevant issues.

There may also be elements at a national or regional level of post-expert, post-truth and post-trust in the current political climate at play.

As a network that is built on strengthening the science-policy interface and encouraging the use of scientific evidence in informing policy at all levels of government, INGSA would like your help to understand challenges/barriers to effective pathways to policy, make best practice recommendations, and/or identify and analyse potential new approaches for engaging policy makers.

Successful applicants will become INGSA Research Associates and will be expected to undertake research in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs) that provide recommendations for, or opportunities to, strengthen demand from policy-makers in your country, region or organisation.

Emphasis should be given to generating research or policy outputs that identify real potential for demand-side increases in evidence usage to develop public policy.

These self-directed projects will be expected to work towards the production of a peer-reviewed publication, a policy brief, or other high-quality resources and guidelines aimed at policy-makers. They may also include a training component, or the organisation of key stakeholder meetings.

In addition, INGSA Research Associates will be encouraged to contribute to the wider activities and knowledge resources of the INGSA network by:

- Developing an INGSA case study, by researching and writing an accessible 4000-5000 word summary of a recent example of scientific evidence and advice relating their region or country. This case report will be made available on the INGSA website and used in international workshops. Examples can be seen here: <http://www.ingsa.org/resources/ingsa-case-studies/>
- Researching and writing a 2500-3000 word country report as a contribution towards an international 'Atlas of Scientific Advice' which INGSA plans to develop, in partnership with UNESCO. Research Associates are encouraged to produce a systematic map of the scientific advisory system in their country (covering a brief history and overview of key institutions, structures, processes and people). This



**International
Science Council**



IDRC | CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

exercise will follow an established template and will be made available on the INGSA website.

Selection criteria and instructions

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a PhD at time of application OR have at least 5 years full-time equivalent experience in research or as a public policy professional (e.g. advice, analysis, implementation, evaluation).
- Applicants must be living and working in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs). [A list of eligible countries can be found here.](#)
Eligible countries are subject to ISC and IDRC risk assessments and legal obligations.
- Applicants must be individuals. Teams of applicants are not eligible
- Applicants must be employed at a recognised institution of higher education, an independent research organisation, government agency, international organisation, or relevant NGO for the duration of the award.
- Applicants who can demonstrate relevant experience relating to developing and using science in public policy and government advisory systems are particularly encouraged to apply.

Eligible expenses

The maximum amount of funding awarded will be €15,000 euros per project. The following types of activities and associated expenses will be considered for support:

- Economy class travel, visas, accommodation and subsistence for meetings with project participants (e.g. to carry out research or build networks).
- Field/scoping visits to research sites of relevance.
- An institutional visit to a foreign university or other relevant agency, including travel, visas, temporary accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Appropriate training, including travel, course fees, temporary accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Workshops, meetings and other events involving project participants.
- Consumables (e.g. printing; recording equipment).
- Cost of Open Access Journal fees - This grant adheres to IDRC's Open Access Policy (<https://www.idrc.ca/en/open-access-policy-idrc-funded-project-outputs>)
- Professional facilitation or translation support for meetings.
- In exceptional cases, where applicants are required by their institutions to cover release time for professional development or research, this expense will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Per Diems according to IDRC guidelines: <https://www.idrc.ca/en/diems>

What the INGSA grant scheme cannot be used for

- Conference registration fees (unless special permission is sought from INGSA).
- Large equipment costs
- Overheads or other unallocated institutional charges

NB: Any funds awarded under this grant must be managed appropriately. Applicants must be able to identify all direct costs claimed and maintain records of expenditure for reporting purposes.

Grant deliverables

At the end of the grant period (November 2019) the INGSA Research Associates will need to submit:

- A two-page grant report detailing the work carried out as part of the INGSA grant, including evaluation and records of expenditure.
- Any drafts or completed scholarly and/or peer-reviewed publications as set out in their written proposal.
- Any content, resources or guidelines created as part of the project.
- Financial reporting requirements, including expenditure statements as required by ISC.
- [Optional] A case study report publishable on the INGSA website, and
- [Optional] A country-specific analysis of the science advice system to be included in the 'Atlas of Science Advice'.

Selection timetable and process

Call for applicants:	1 October 2018
Submission deadline:	15 November 2018
Review and selection:	November and early December 2018
Funding decision / award:	late December 2018
Grant commencement:	1 February 2019
International INGSA Meeting:	To Be Confirmed 2018
Submission of grant deliverables:	December 2019

Application process

Applications must be submitted online through the INGSA website (<http://www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/>)

Applicants to provide the following information:

- Name and institutional affiliation, and position held.
 - Proposed title of project.
 - A short CV (No more than 3 pages).
 - A clear, non-expert summary of the proposed project and expected outcomes (up to 500 words).
 - A brief outline of likely collaborative/consultative partnerships, e.g. if you are a scientist, who on the policy practitioner side do you intend to consult or collaborate with, and if a policy practitioner who on the research/scientist side will you consult (up to 200 words).
 - A proposed budget and justification of the funds requested.
 - Short public biography of the applicant (up to 200 words).
- **Note:** English is the working language of INGSA. All application materials must be submitted in English. Research outputs may be submitted in other international languages but must include an English summary.

Selection Process

Selection Criteria

While this is an independent individual research project, it should be aligned with your existing role and institution.

Assessment Criteria

1. Potential for new knowledge to be generated, disseminated and applied
2. Relevance to science advice demand at a national or regional level
3. Applicant's track record and alignment with interests
4. Feasibility and collaborative nature of approach
5. Alignment with institutional expertise/focus and national/regional priorities

In selecting the successful applicants, INGSA will be taking into account regional and gender diversity.

The selection committee is balanced by region and gender, comprising officials from INGSA, ISC and IDRC along with one delegate from each of the INGSA Regional Chapters (Asia, Latin America & Caribbean, and Africa).

Value of Grant

There are six INGSA Research Associate Grants available to commence in 2019. Each grant will be supported up to a maximum of €15,000. Additional support will be made available for travel to an INGSA international meeting, likely in September 2019.

Further Information

Further information about INGSA can be found on the INGSA website: www.ingsa.org

Any questions associated with this call, or to report technical issues with the application process can be directed to: INGSA Programme Officer, Grant Mills: g.mills@ingsa.org or INGSA Senior Programme Officer, Lara Cowen: l.cowen@ingsa.org

To Apply

Applications must be submitted through the INGSA Website:
(www.ingsa.org/grant-programme/)