# IBRO–SENC

# EQUITABLE TRAVEL GRANTS 2027

## Objective:

The **Spanish Society for Neuroscience (SENC)**, with the support of the **International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)**, opens a call for travel grants for **early career researchers (ECRs)** to attend the **21st SENC Meeting, Zaragoza, Spain**, Sept 1st-3rd, 2027 (https://congresosenc.es/).

The grants are awarded on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) criteria, giving priority to ECRs from regions and institutions with limited resources. Awardees will take part in the IBRO-supported DEI activities of the meeting.

## Funding:

| Grant | Number | Amount per grant |
|---|---|---|
| **Travel grants – national tier (ECRs based at institutions in Spain)** | **5** | **USD 700** |
| **Travel grants – international tier (ECRs based at institutions outside Spain)** | **5** | **USD 900** |
| **Total** | **10** | |

Grants may cover travel, accommodation and/or registration costs. Amounts are set in US dollars and will be paid in euros, at the exchange rate on the date of payment.

## Eligibility criteria:

- ✓ To be a PhD student, or a postdoctoral researcher within 7 years of obtaining their PhD (extended by one year for each period of parental, caregiving or serious illness leave).
- ✓ To be the presenting author of an abstract submitted to the meeting, as first or last author. Co-first authors (equal contribution) are eligible, provided this is clearly stated in the abstract.
- ✓ SENC membership is **not required**.
- ✓ **Applicants from any country may apply**, except those listed under "Excluded countries" below.

## Compatibility with other SENC grants:

- ✓ Applicants may also apply to the *SENC Travel Awards 2027*, but the two travel grants **cannot be combined**. Applicants awarded both must accept only one of them.
- ✓ Applicants with care responsibilities may also apply to the *IBRO–SENC Caregiving Grants 2027*, which **CAN be combined** with this travel grant.

**Deadline:** The call **opens November 17th, 2026** and **closes March 5th, 2027**.
Grants will be announced by **April 15th, 2027**.
Grants are conditional upon acceptance of the abstract by the Scientific Committee (expected May 1st, 2027).

## How to apply:

Applicants need to complete the online application form at **IBRO–SENC EQUITABLE TRAVEL GRANTS 2027.**

As part of the application, candidates will be asked to upload the following documents:

- ✓ A copy of the **abstract** as submitted to the meeting, stating the authorship position.
- ✓ A **motivation statement** (max. 1,000 characters): why attending the meeting and its DEI activities is important for your career.
- ✓ For PhD students, a **letter from the supervisor or head of department** certifying that the applicant is pursuing a PhD.

The online form will also request the **following information**:

- ✓ Name of the group's PI, institution, city and country.
- ✓ Country of residence and nationality.
- ✓ For **postdocs**, date of the PhD defence and any extension that may apply.
- ✓ Whether the applicant has applied for, or received, other funding for travel, accommodation or registration for this meeting (other than a caregiving grant).
- ✓ Gender (not scored; used only for statistics and gender balance).

****NOTE: documentary proof may be required at a later stage.**

If the online form is not available (e.g., a "Form over quota" message is displayed) or cannot be accessed from your country, please send your application, including the required documents, by email to sencjovenes@senc.es and secretaria.tecnica@senc.es before the deadline.

## Evaluation criteria:

Applications will be scored using the following published criteria (maximum 100 points), which follow IBRO's DEI guidelines (https://ibro.org/dei-and-visibility-guidelines/):

1. **Territorial criterion (0–40 points):** region or country where the applicant's institution is located, according to the definitions below.
2. **Institutional resources (0–35 points):** absence of other funding for travel, accommodation or registration, as declared by the applicant in the application form; resources of the host group and institution. A caregiving grant does not count as other funding, as it covers different costs.
3. **Motivation (0–25 points):** expected benefit for the applicant's career and for their participation in the DEI activities of the meeting.

**Gender balance:** gender is not scored. When ranking applications with similar scores, the committee will aim for a gender-balanced distribution of awardees, in line with IBRO's guidelines and where the pool of applicants allows it.

## Definition of priority regions and countries:

The territorial criterion is based on the location of the applicant's institution, using the following official classifications (in force at the opening of this call):

| Location of the institution | Classification | Points |
|---|---|---|
| **Spain – less developed and outermost regions** | Less developed regions under EU Cohesion Policy 2021–2027 (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/1130): Andalucía, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura, Ceuta and Melilla; and the outermost region of the Canary Islands (Art. 349 TFEU). | 40 |
| **Spain – transition regions** | Asturias, Balearic Islands, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Comunidad Valenciana, Galicia, La Rioja and Región de Murcia. | 25 |
| **Spain – more developed regions** | Aragón, Cataluña, Comunidad de Madrid, Navarra and País Vasco. | 0 |
| **Outside Spain – low- and lower-middle-income economies** | World Bank country classification by income level in force at the opening of this call (https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519). | 40 |
| **Outside Spain – upper-middle-income economies and Horizon Europe Widening countries** | Upper-middle-income economies (World Bank classification, as above).<br>Horizon Europe Widening countries: EU Member States Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the Widening countries among the countries associated to Horizon Europe (https://rea.ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe-widening-who-should-apply_en). | 30 |
| **Outside Spain – other countries** | High-income economies that are not Widening countries. | 0 |

Applicants based in regions or countries with 0 points remain eligible and are scored on the other criteria. Applicants based in Spain apply to the national tier; applicants based outside Spain apply to the international tier.

### Excluded countries:

- In line with IBRO's conditions and international financial sanctions, citizens and residents of **North Korea, Venezuela and Crimea** are not eligible, as IBRO cannot make payments to them.
- Grants to citizens and residents of **Iran, Cuba and Belarus** require prior approval by the U.S. Treasury Department (OFAC licence). IBRO supports these applications, but the process may take several months; any such grant will be conditional on that approval being granted before the meeting.
- In case of doubt, IBRO will be consulted before excluding any applicant.

### Evaluation committee and procedure:

- Applications will be evaluated by a committee of members of the SENC Young Researchers and Education Committee (YERC), the Women in Neuroscience Committee (WiNS) and the SENC Executive Board.
- Committee members will abstain from evaluating applications where a conflict of interest exists (e.g., same research group, direct supervision, or close collaboration).

- A ranked reserve list will be published along with the awards. Awardees must confirm acceptance within two weeks of publication; otherwise, the grant will pass to the next candidate on the reserve list.

**Obligations of the awardees:**

1. To register for and attend the meeting, and present their work as an oral communication or poster.
2. **To attend the three IBRO-supported DEI activities of the meeting**: Mentoring Networking Event "Pathways in Science"; Gender Gap in Neuroscience: Exploring Solutions – Panel Discussion; and WiNS Award for Inclusive Leadership – IBRO–WiNS Keynote Lecture.
3. Inclusion of the **IBRO and SENC logos** in the presented communication (poster or oral presentation). Logos are available in the **IBRO communications toolkit** (https://ibro.org/ibro-event-organization-grantee-communications-toolkit/ ) and the **SENC communication toolkit** (SENC Communication Tool Kit ).
4. To use both toolkits to share the award on their social media (tagging @IBROorg and @SENC_, and using #SENC2027 and #IBROEquitableMeetingAwards).
5. To send to SENC (sencjovenes@senc.es), 2-4 weeks before the meeting, the title of the presented work, the poster or session number, the day of presentation and a photograph, for dissemination on SENC social media.
6. To complete a **short post-meeting survey**.
7. To renounce the grant if they receive other support for the same costs (travel, accommodation or registration).
8. To authorize SENC and IBRO to post names, awarded work and related information on their websites and social media platforms, including the information and photograph provided by the awardee.

**Travel grants payment:**

Grants will be paid **by bank transfer after the meeting completion.** Amounts set in US dollars will be paid in euros at the exchange rate on the date of payment.

For the payment, the awardee will submit the following documents to secretaria.tecnica@senc.es:

✓ Certificate of attendance.

✓ A statement indicating that he/she has NOT received other support for the same costs.

✓ The bank account number.

**Data protection:**

Personal data will be processed by SENC only for the management of this call. Anonymized and aggregated data (e.g., gender and geographical distribution of applicants and awardees) will be shared with IBRO for its reporting requirements.

**Contact:** secretaria.tecnica@senc.es

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