IBRO–SENC
CAREGIVING GRANTS 2027

Objective:

The **Spanish Society for Neuroscience (SENC)**, with the support of the **International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)**, opens a call for caregiving grants for **early career researchers (ECRs)** who have care responsibilities for children or other dependants, 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**, so that caregiving responsibilities are not a barrier to attending the meeting. Awardees will take part in the IBRO-supported DEI activities of the meeting.

Funding:

Grant	Number	Amount per grant
Caregiving grants ***(additional care costs for children or other dependants traveling with the awardee or staying at the place of residence)***	**6**	**USD 700**

Grants may cover additional care costs arising from attendance at the meeting, whether the dependant travels with the awardee (e.g., on-site childcare, additional travel or accommodation) or stays at the place of residence (e.g., paid substitute care during the awardee's absence). 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.
- ✓ To have care responsibilities for children or other dependants during the dates of the meeting.
- ✓ SENC membership is **not required**.
- ✓ **Applicants from any country may apply**, except those listed under "Excluded countries" below.

Compatibility with other SENC grants:

- ✓ This grant **CAN be combined** with an *IBRO–SENC Equitable Travel Grant* or a *SENC Travel Award 2027*. Applicants who also need travel support are encouraged to apply to one of the travel grant calls as well.

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 **IBRO–SENC CAREGIVING 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 **description of the care arrangement** during the meeting and the estimated additional costs (max. 1,000 characters).
- ✓ 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 care costs during this meeting (other than a travel grant).
- ✓ Gender (not scored; used only for statistics).

****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. **Care needs (0–60 points):** care arrangement during the meeting and the additional costs it involves, as described by the applicant (e.g., number and age of children, dependants with special needs, single caregivers, absence of other support).
2. **Territorial and institutional criterion (0–40 points):** territorial criterion (0–25), according to the definitions below, and absence of other funding for care costs, e.g., institutional childcare support (0–15), as declared by the applicant in the application form. A travel grant (IBRO–SENC or SENC) does not count as other funding, as it covers different costs.

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).	25
Spain – transition regions	Asturias, Balearic Islands, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Comunidad Valenciana, Galicia, La Rioja and Región de Murcia.	15
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).	25
Outside Spain – upper-middle-income economies and Horizon Europe Widening countries	Upper-middle-income economies (World Bank classification, as above). 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).	20
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.

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. Additionally, use of both toolkits to share the award on social media is not compulsory but highly recommended (tagging @IBROorg and @SENC_, and using #SENC2027 and #IBROEquitableMeetingAwards).
5. To complete a **short post-meeting survey**.
6. To renounce the grant if they receive other support for the same costs (care costs).
7. Publication of the names of caregiving grant awardees is optional and requires their explicit consent.

Caregiving grants payment:

Grants will be paid **by bank transfer after the meeting is completed.** 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. Information about care arrangements will be used only for the evaluation and will not be published. Anonymised 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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