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Early Career Opportunities: Antarctic Fellowships & Scholarships

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Summary

With 2021 marking the 10th anniversary of the COMNAP Antarctic Fellowship Scheme for early career persons, and 2022 marking the 20th anniversary of the SCAR Fellowship Programme, CCAMLR, COMNAP, IAATO and SCAR join together to mark the occasion and to celebrate the combined efforts to enable early career persons to advance their Antarctic careers. Each organisation contributes to supporting early career persons under similar schemes and all four organisations work together to advertise, promote and administer the collection of available opportunities. This paper presents a summary to date of all the schemes and encourages all Parties to bring these opportunities to the attention of their early career persons. The organisations note with thanks that the schemes have only been possible due to continuing support from Parties, national Antarctic programme members, SCAR organisations and the IAATO membership.

Background to the Early Career Opportunities

SCAR initiated its opportunities for early career persons in 2002 through the SCAR Fellowship Programme. This was followed in 2010 with CCAMLR's Scientific Scholarship Scheme. COMNAP, learning from the SCAR scheme, launched its Antarctic Fellowship Scheme in 2011. IAATO, drawing on the expertise of COMNAP and in collaboration, established a similar fellowship in 2019. Beyond the financial support provided to the individual recipient, the schemes also aim to encourage involvement of early career persons in Antarctic research endeavours, strengthen international capacity and cooperation in the spirit of the Antarctic Treaty, and support member countries with an emerging Antarctic research programme.

SCAR's Fellowship Programme aims to encourage the active involvement of early career researchers in Antarctic scientific research and to build new connections and further strengthen international capacity and cooperation in Antarctic research. Awards up to US\$ 15000 are possible. Since the initiation of the programme, eighty-three SCAR Fellowships have been awarded.

<https://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/overview/>

The CCAMLR Scientific Scholarship Scheme offers early career scientists an opportunity to participate in the work of the Scientific Committee and its working groups. The objective is to contribute to capacity building within the CCAMLR scientific community in order to help generate and sustain a sound basis of scientific expertise able to support the requirements of CCAMLR in the long term. Under the CCAMLR Scheme, eighteen Scholarships of up to AU\$ 30000 have been awarded.

<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/science/ccamlr-scientific-scholarship-scheme>

The COMNAP Antarctic Fellowship Scheme is designed to encourage the active involvement of early career Antarctic persons and to strengthen international capacity and cooperation through international exchanges. The fellow's project should contribute to the objectives of the home or host national Antarctic programme. Over the past ten years, eighteen Fellowships of up to US\$ 15000 have been awarded.

<https://www.comnap.aq/comnap-antarctic-fellowships>

IAATO's Antarctic Fellowship, each of up to US\$ 15000, aims to invest in the professional development of early career researchers and further the understanding of human presence in

Antarctica. IAATO has awarded four Fellowships since 2019.
<https://iaato.org/supporting-science/the-iaato-antarctic-fellowship/>

Building a Record of Success

In 2016, SCAR and COMNAP convened a Fellowship Mini-Symposium at the SCAR Open Science Conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Mini-Symposium included a presentation on the results of an informal review of the fellowship programmes (see K. Lochte, *[“What have we learned from the Fellowship Programme?”](#)*). This informal review led to a refinement of the COMNAP and SCAR Fellowship Programmes to better target under-represented groups and to improve success from applicants from under-represented countries. The Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS) assisted, and provided a conduit through their Career Development webinar series on “Writing for Success: Preparing Winning Fellowship Applications”. Those webinars were held in English and in Spanish. With opportunities available for 2022 and the application round currently open, a further round of informative webinars is being planned. These webinars are archived on the APECS website and are a useful source of information for any person considering preparation of an application.

We continue to look for ways to expand the early career opportunities and to ensure that those who need the support are in a position to apply to the schemes and to succeed. We encourage all Parties to advertise these schemes throughout their early career communities. We also take this opportunity to thank all who have been involved to date for the continuing support.

Please refer to the links below to see the up-to-date lists of successful Fellowship and Scholarship holders along with the research or project that was completed because of the support received. The combined list of successful fellows and scholarship recipients makes for an impressive record.

CCAMLR Scholarship recipients: <https://www.ccamlr.org/node/87493>

COMNAP Antarctic Fellowship recipients: <https://www.comnap.aq/comnap-antarctic-fellowships>

IAATO Fellowship recipients: <https://iaato.org/supporting-science/the-iaato-antarctic-fellowship/>

SCAR Fellowship recipients: <https://www.scar.org/awards/fellowships/fellows/>