

NAASC Participation Awards for ICAR 2021-Virtual

Complete Applications Due 1 February 2021

Timeline for Applications for both Category 1 (ECP) and Category 2 (ISP)

1. 16 November 2020: Award competition announced/posted
2. 1 February 2021: Deadline for receipt of application and all supporting information via Google Form AND letter of support emailed to arabidopsisconference@gmail.com (letter not required for faculty applicants)
3. 8 March 2021: Awards announced three weeks prior to early registration fee/ abstract submission deadline. You will know if you have conference funding support in hand by this key deadline.
4. 31 March 2021: Early fee deadline and abstract submission deadline for oral consideration
5. 17 May 2021: Abstract submission deadline for poster presentation

NAASC will award a limited number of awards to participate in ICAR 2021 (June 21-25, 2021) via a competitive application process. ICAR 2021 is scheduled to be fully online and NAASC participation awards will partially or fully subsidize registration costs. NAASC is committed to increasing diversity of ICAR attendees and enabling broader participation and we focus on increasing participation in two categories: (1) Early-career participation (ECP) and (2) Inclusivity Scholars Program (ISP) for U.S. members of under-represented groups in STEM. Award category (1) ECP is open to undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, pre-tenure faculty, and professionals beginning their careers in plant science. U.S. residency or citizenship is not a requirement to apply. Award category (2) ISP, is open to U.S. members of under-represented groups in U.S. STEM, as defined below. New for 2021: NAASC is raising (non-federal) funds to enable participation by DACA-status students, postdocs, or faculty in the new NAASC DACA Program (NDP), see below.

- Applications must be submitted online via this Form.
- Letters of Recommendation must be emailed directly by the advisor (or other professional mentor) to Joanna Friesner (arabidopsisconference@gmail.com). The submission deadline for the application and the Letter of Recommendation is **Monday, 1 February, 2021 (11:59 PM EDT)**. Be sure to request your letter of recommendation with sufficient time so that the writer can meet this firm deadline. It is recommended that you check in with your letter writer until they have submitted, and also ensure a return email acknowledging receipt is received.
- **Student and Postdoctoral scholar applicants** must have their advisor (or other professional mentor) email the letter of recommendation directly to Joanna Friesner (arabidopsisconference@gmail.com) by the **1 Feb. 2021 deadline**. **Letters must include** the applicant's LAST NAME in the email's subject, e.g., "Letter for Vandenberg".
- **Faculty-level and Professional applicants do not have to submit a letter of recommendation;** however, they must list "current & pending support" in their submitted CV.

The **two categories** of participation awards for ICAR 2021:

Category 1 Early Career Participation (ECP) awards for partial or full registration fee waivers: The ECP award program is open to full-time undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, pre-tenure faculty, and professionals beginning their careers in plant science. U.S. residency or citizenship is not a requirement to apply. NAASC will allocate **up to \$40,000** for ECP for ICAR 2021. **All awardees must present their research via a talk or poster.**

Awards will fully or partially cover registration fees.

Category 2 Inclusivity Scholars Program (ISP) awards for full registration fee waivers for members of under-represented groups in US Science: The ISP award program is open to **US citizen or US permanent residents that are under-represented in US science (or faculty that teach/train/mentor URMs at accredited URM-serving institutions)**. NAASC will allocate **up to \$30,000 for ISP for ICAR 2021**. **New for 2021:** NAASC DACA Program (NDP), see below. NAASC will allocate (non-federal) funds **up to \$5,000 for NDP**. **ISP awardees are encouraged to present their research, education, or outreach via a talk or poster.**

There are three paths to ISP eligibility:

(1) Native Americans (American Indians and Alaskan Natives), African-Americans, Latinx-Americans (specifically of Central or South American descent), and Native Pacific Islanders that are US citizens or permanent residents;

and/or

(2) Faculty who work at federally-designated US Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), Black-serving non-HBCUs, and 1890 Institutions and who are directly supporting the education and professional development of students or postdocs in the described under-represented groups (applicants do not need to be U.S. citizens or permanent residents)

or

(3) NDP: NAASC supported (non-federal) funding for **DACA-status** students, postdocs or faculty who may apply for full registration waivers. Must be U.S. residents.

ISP Awards will fully cover registration fees.

ECP and ISP Two Step Submission Process:

1. **Input your information into the google form.** The system will auto-generate a confirmation email to be sent to you upon successful submission so you have a record of what was submitted.

PLEASE NOTE: Submission of an abstract as part of these award programs is a separate process from submitting an abstract for presentation at ICAR 2021. Abstracts submitted in support of a participation award application must be received by **Monday 1 February 2021 (11:59 p.m. EDT). To have your work considered for presentation during an ICAR 2021 community session, you must submit your abstract through the regular meeting abstract system.*

2. **You must ask your letter writer to send their letter so it is received by the 1**

February 2021 deadline. It is your responsibility to ensure this is completed. Applications are incomplete without this letter of support (letter not required for faculty applicants).

1. Support letters go to Dr. Joanna Friesner at: arabidopsisconference@gmail.com **Letter must be received at arabidopsisconference@gmail.com by 1 February 2021**

2. Ask letter writers to **include YOUR LAST NAME in the filename** (e.g. Smith_Letter.pdf)

3. You are strongly encouraged to check back with your letter writer to ensure we receive the letter by the deadline. You may also email the organizers

at arabidopsisconference@gmail.com to ensure it was received. Remember: it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure letters are received by the deadline. **You should give your letter writer ample notice of the need to write the letter (we recommend a minimum of 2-4 weeks) and to clearly (multiple times) inform them of the deadline that the letter**

must be received.

We encourage you to prepare your abstract, statement and cv/resume outside of the system and simply cut and paste your response when prompted.

Selection will be based on:

Category 1/ Early Career Participation (ECP): (1) quality of the science and research abstract, (2) strength of the resume/curriculum vitae, (3) strength of the recommendation letter (*not required for faculty applicants*), (4) strength of the statement on career impact of attending, (5) whether the applicant has received conference funds from NAASC before, and (6) ethnic, gender, and geographic diversity. **Note: ECP is open to non-US citizens and non-US residents as well as US citizens & residents.*

Category 2/US Inclusivity Scholars Program (ISP): The primary goal of this funding is to provide **new opportunities for US scientists that are themselves under-represented in US science (or that teach, or otherwise impact, groups under-represented in US science)** to participate in the annual international platform plant biology conference that focuses on the model plant, *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Thus, the selection committee will give preference to diverse applicants based on (in no specific order): (1) Applicant's stated desired benefits to them, and potential for impacting their career, by participating in the ICAR (and positive impacts to others that are under-represented in US science) (2) CV or Resume (3) Letter of Support provided on behalf of the applicant (not required for faculty applicants) (4) Career stage, gender, institution type, geographic location in the US (5) Current and past access to similar funding opportunities (6) Availability of resources at their home institutions ('resources' include, for example, funding access, and available institutional programs and activities aimed at supporting URMs and related activities)(7) Note- for 2021 we are waiving the restriction to only receiving this award twice, due to reduced costs for virtual/online ICAR 2021 participation; thus, past recipients may apply this year. **Note: ISP is open restricted to U.S. residents (citizenship requirements as listed, above; NDP does not require U.S. citizenship for DACA status applicants.)*

All applicants:

Research, education, or outreach abstract for oral or poster presentation (max 2000 characters including spaces but excluding title and author(s)); *optional but strongly encouraged for ISP Category 2*; **Brief Curriculum vitae or resume** (1-2 pages maximum which must include education, degree attainment, and professional appointments, if applicable; awards, fellowships, scientific presentations given, relevant activities and up to 5 recent publications, if applicable); **Brief paragraph** (maximum 1500 characters, including spaces) describing how your attendance at ICAR 2021 will benefit the meeting and how it will benefit your career goals; **Advisor's letter of recommendation** (faculty applicants excluded) to be sent to arabidopsiconference@gmail.com, and **Current and pending support** (faculty only.)

Category 2/ISP applicants also will be asked to provide some **information for the ICAR 2021 ISP Cohort** on your research and/or education interests; your personal and/or professional goals for attending. All ISP applicants (excluding faculty) must arrange to have a letter of support emailed to Dr. Joanna Friesner/ICAR 2021 organizer, at arabidopsiconference@gmail.com and received by the deadline (1 February 2021)