

ISDR Early Career Researcher Grant Scheme, 2023

1. Award Background

In 2023 the ISDR are excited to be trialling a new grant scheme for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). The aim of this scheme is to support ECR members of the International Society for Diatom Research (ISDR) by (i) providing open funding opportunities and (ii) facilitating and promoting collaboration and networking. The ISDR defines ECR members as:

- Members currently registered on an MSc programme
- Members currently registered on a PhD programme
- Researchers who are within 8 years of the award of their PhD or MSc (extensions to this 8-year timeframe are permitted for periods of leave, including maternity, parental and sick leave).

2. Grant Types

The ISDR will provide ECR members with access to two types of funding for original projects that focus on diatoms across all (sub)disciplines.

These are type I: Starter ECR Grant - **Luc Ector ECR Bursary** and type II: **ECR Networking Grant**. Further details related to each of these is given below. In 2023, the total amount available for the new grant scheme is £10,000. To be eligible to apply for these grant schemes you must be a paid member of the ISDR in the year in which you apply.

Luc Ector ECR Bursary (3 awards worth £2,000 each)

This is an ECR starter grant named in memory of Luc Ector who, as well as being a prominent and prolific diatomist, was also known for his generosity and concern for young diatomists.

These grants are awarded to an individual. The main aim of this grant is to enable students to do something in their research that would otherwise be very difficult or impossible.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a registered MSc or PhD student.
- Have not been a previous recipient of a Luc Ector ECR Bursary from the ISDR.
- Must write a short application that outlines the proposed research, how it will contribute to the researcher's career and to the ISDR, motivation and objectives, methodology, outputs and a budget (see proposal form Type I).

Budget & project duration

There are 3 Luc Ector ECR Bursaries available. The value of each award is £2,000 per recipient. This award must be spent within 2 years. The budget may cover consumables and non-consumables, travel expenses required exclusively for the development of the project. Eligible costs should be specified in the proposal according to the objectives of the project.

ECR Networking Grant (1 award worth £4,000)

This award is designed to support a collaborative project, and must involve at least 3 ECRs. The main aim of this grant scheme is to promote collaboration and multidisciplinary research among ECRs.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Early Career Researchers, defined here as graduate students and postgraduates within 8 years of receiving their highest degree (extensions to this 8-year timeframe are permitted for periods of leave, including maternity, parental and sick leave).
- Must write a full application that outlines the proposed research, how it will contribute to the researchers' careers and to the ISDR, contribution of the collaborators, motivation and objectives, methodology, outputs and a budget (see proposal form Type II).

Budget & project duration

There is one ECR Networking Grant available to support original research, outreach, resource creation etc. The value of each award is £4000. This award must be spent within 2 years. The budget may cover consumables and non-consumables, travel expenses required exclusively for the development of the project. Eligible costs should be specified in the proposal according to the objectives of the project.

For the Type II, the coordinator of the awarded project will receive 100% of the total budget at the beginning of the project.

3. Application procedure

Candidates interested in submitting a proposal should complete and submit the online application, in full:

- Type I - <https://forms.gle/ipH6RQcsYhHkLyqcA>
- Type II - <https://forms.gle/SrYNHfwyaWsuofFj7>

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5 pm (UCT) on 30 September 2023

4. Project evaluation

After the deadline of the project submission, the proposals will be collated and sent to an Evaluation Panel. The Evaluation Panel will be constituted by three members nominated by the Executive committee and the ECR representatives of ISDR Council and confirmed by Council. The Evaluation Panel will be selected with diversity in mind and to avoid any conflict of interest with any of the proposals or candidates.

The evaluation of proposals will follow the guidelines in the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA; see <https://sfdora.org/read/>). The projects will be reviewed by

the panel and evaluated according to the following criteria.

General criteria for both schemes:

- [a] The scientific quality of the project (reasoning and objectives) and how it will contribute to improve our knowledge of diatoms.
- [b] The feasibility of the project taking into account the methodology, work plan, timeline and requested budget.

Additional criteria for Luc Ector ECR Bursary:

- [a] Benefits of the project to the applicant's research and career
- [b] How the funds will enable the applicant to enhance their project that would otherwise be impossible

Additional criteria the ECR Networking Grant:

- [a] Potential to create synergies and support multidisciplinary interactions among ECR diatomists.
- [b] Scientific merit (this could be a pure research project or could focus on outreach or resource creation etc), innovative nature, relevance and originality of the project
- [c] Expected outputs.

The decision of the evaluation panel will be announced no later than two months after the deadline for applications.

Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application by email.

Applicants will receive the evaluation reports made by the panel. The decisions of the evaluation panel are final. There will be no options to appeal.

ISDR members will be informed about the submitted projects, their proposers and the projects awarded by email. Successful applicants and projects will be announced on the ISDR website and its social media accounts.

5. Project development

The ISDR Council or their nominees will follow the progress of the projects and will be available to provide support/advice to students through online meetings with the awardees if required.

6. Project outputs

Luc Ector ECR Bursary

- At the beginning of the project, a brief project description and awardee biography to be published on the ISDR website.

- At the end of the project, a final report that describes the results and the progress of the student's research facilitated by this award, including lessons learnt.
- A brief summary and blog post for the ISDR website.

ECR Networking Grant

- At the beginning of the project, a brief project description and awardee biographies to be published on the ISDR website.
- At the end of the project, an extended final report that describes the results obtained and the synergies created in the project, including lessons learnt.
- A brief summary and blog post for the ISDR website.
- Where appropriate a submission of a manuscript to Diatom Research.
- An oral presentation of the project at the first IDS after the project has been completed in case a member of the team member attends.

7. Terms and Conditions of the ISDR Grant Schemes

- Engagement with the Young ISDR network and Council.
- Engagement with the other awardees.
- Contribution to ISDR activities (e.g., blog post, webinar, coffee meetings). We plan to establish a series of webinars to explain and promote these grants, in which the awardees will be expected to present their projects, results and experiences.
- Acknowledgment of ISDR funding in any publication, deliverable, outreach activity and use of the ISDR official logo when appropriate.
- Ensure that project funds are used in accordance with the proposal.
- Submit a final report using the template provided by the ISDR.
- Submit a final justification of expenditure supported by tickets, receipts or invoices using the template provided by the ISDR Treasurer.
- Both reports, scientific and expenses, must be sent to the ISDR Secretary within 3 months of the end of the project.
- Adherence to the ISDR International Monetary Transfer Policy