

FELLOWSHIP REPORT ON 2009-2010 APPLICATIONS

May 15 was the deadline for applications for the SCAR Fellowships for 2009-2010. The review board comprised the three SSG COs (Kathleen Conlan for LS, Alessandro Capra for GS and Maurizio Candidi for PS) plus Sergio Marensi, Ad Huiskes and Rasik Ravindra from EXCOM.

In total there were 32 applicants, though one withdrew due to obtaining funds from another source and two were deemed invalid (host country and home country were the same). To prevent any one of the evaluation team having to take too large burden, the tasks were divided up as follows:

1. Maurizio Candidi took all 10 SSG-PS proposals;
2. Alessandro Capra took all 4 SSG-GS proposals;
3. Ad Huiskes and Kathleen Conlan took all 15 LS proposals;
4. Sergio Marensi took the 4 GS and one PS proposals;
5. Rasik Ravindra took 9 of the SSG-PS proposals (the 10th was reviewed by Sergio to avoid a possible conflict of interest);
6. Mike Sparrow coordinated the results

This ensured two reviews for all proposals. The revised rules state that SCAR should try to fund at least one fellow from each SSG.

Marks were based on:

- (i) Quality of proposal (weight x 3);
- (ii) Relevance to SCAR's SRPs/SSGs (weight x 3);
- (iii) Does the proposal help build capacity in a country that would most benefit? (weight x 2);
- (iv) The study is largely self-contained, rather than being part of a bigger project in which the applicant is a collaborator (weight x 1);
- (v) Is the study feasible in the time estimated and will it likely lead to publication?

Evaluators scored proposals on a scale from 1-5 based on the above five criteria. The EO then added the scores from the two reviewers of each proposal for each criteria and calculated a weighted total.

This gave the scores and rankings the table below. Only the top 6 candidates are shown. Note that only 2 points in total separate the 6 top candidates.

Name	From	To	Score	Rank	SSG	SRP	6CI	Cost \$	Cum \$
Nuncio Murukesh	India	US	71	Joint 1	PS	AGCS	No	11,650	11,650
Jennifer Lee	South Africa	UK	71	Joint 1	LS	EBA	No	14,350	26,000
Gabriela Iburguchi	Canada	NZ	70	Joint 2	LS	EBA	No	11,200	37,200
Letizia Tedesco	Italy	Aus	70	Joint 2	LS	EBA	No	13,700	50,900
Stefano Picotti	Italy	US	69	Joint 3	GS	ACE	No	8,000	58,900
Odile Volonterio	Uruguay	UK	69	Joint 3	LS	EBA	No	15,000	73,900

The evaluators decided to recommend that SCAR offers the fellowships to Murukesh, Lee, Picotti and Volonterio. This allows (i) at least one fellow from GS, PS and LS (ii) only one Italian (iii) the involvement of Uruguay which resonates well with SCAR's aim to focus on capacity building in countries with less well developed Antarctic Programmes. The total budget request is \$49,000. Based on the submitted applications the EO recommends the following initial allocations, though costs etc. should be checked with applicants and host institutions: Murukesh (\$9,600 – 82% funded), Lee (\$12,330 – 86% funded), Picotti (\$8,000 – 100% funded), Volonterio (\$10,000 – 67% funded). Total \$39,930.

The budget available is \$39,930. The VPs for finance (Ad Huiskes) and Capacity Building (Rasik Ravindra) may wish to recommend an additional allocation from SCAR funds from the 2009 budget to be discussed at EXCOM.

Two candidates (Juergen Kolb from Germany and Catarina Magalhaes from Portugal) are eligible for the 6CI, though neither were in the top six candidates identified by the reviewers. The EO has contacted the IPF to see if they wish to sponsor either of these potential fellows.

For general information, more than half of the candidates were women. The candidates were going from the following countries:

Argentina (1), Aus (1); Belgium (2), Canada (1); Chile (2); China (1); France (1); India (1); Italy (8); Japan (1); Netherlands (1); NZ (2); Portugal (1); SA (1); Spain (1); Sweden (1); UK (1); Uruguay (1), US (4).

They were proposing to go to the following countries:

Aus (7); Belgium (2); Canada (2); Chile (1); Finland (1); France (2); Germany (1); NZ (4); Spain (1); UK (6); Ukraine (1); US (4)

The Fellowship scheme is popular as can be shown by the below table (in the 2003/4 year SCAR won the Prince of Asturias award and was able to allocate \$50k rather than the normal \$30k). Working to find an external sponsor of the scheme (Prince Albert Foundation, Tinker Foundation etc.) should be a priority.

	2003/04		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
No. applicants	32		11	22	22	19	32
From no. of countries	18		8	?	13	11	19