



Navigating Sustainability Transformations Towards Justice and Equity

Hosted by Wits University

August 18-21, 2025
South Africa

Finding a Grant or Sponsorship

The [Transformations Community](#) and [Earth System Governance Project](#) is committed to supporting diversity and inclusivity, recognizing that a wide range of perspectives strengthens our collective ability to tackle today's global challenges.

As a **non-profit event**, TC/ESG 2025 does not have funding to cover attendance costs. However, we understand that financial barriers can limit participation, so we offer [discounted rates](#) and resources to help attendees seek sponsorship or grant funding.

Many organizations and foundations support individuals in attending conferences and professional development opportunities. We encourage you to start by exploring funding options through professional organizations, academic institutions, and relevant groups in your field. Below, we've compiled a list of potential funding sources to assist in your search.

Resources for Travel Grants and Bursaries

The following organizations provide travel-related grants and bursaries. Please ensure you read eligibility criteria through carefully. If a submission window has closed, check back later; many travel grants operate on a rolling or intermittent basis.

Regionally-Specific Grants:

West African Research Center Travel Grant:

The [West African Research Center Travel Grant](#) (WARC) provides support to African scholars and students for research-related travel. This grant is only open to West African nationals, with priority given to those affiliated with West African colleges, universities, or research institutes.

Small Islands Developing States:

[Our Shared Ocean Programme](#) provides travel grants to students, research assistants, and early career researchers carrying out marine-related research at academic / research institutions from eligible SIDS (Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS). This fund covers conference-related costs.

Inter-Africa Travel:

The [PAGES African Mobility Fellowship](#) is awarded to African early-career researchers studying past global change, who want to gain experience in another African country. A minimum of two weeks of travel and living expenses are covered. Research must focus on changes in the climate and biosphere in the past.

Canadian Graduate Scholarship:

The [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements](#) are available to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada or Protected Persons who hold a Canada Graduate Scholarship.

Grants for Early Career Researchers:

The Association of Commonwealth Universities provides [Early Career Conference Grants](#) to early-career researchers looking to attend a conference in Commonwealth countries outside their country of work.

The [British Ecological Society](#) provides training and travel grants for PhD students and postgraduate research assistants. Applicants must be BES members. Students studying in ecology-related fields can trial a free membership for 12 months.

The [Global South Colloquium Fund](#) prioritizes the participation of early career researchers from the Global South to present on topics relevant to the Third World Quarterly journal, including international relations and political science, sociocultural studies, development studies, Global South studies, and more.

General Databases and Additional Resources:

[ECRcentral](#) is a central database for early career researchers. It has up-to-date information on grants, fellowships, and other financial opportunities for ECRs, including travel bursaries.

[Grant Forward](#) is a searchable database of funding opportunities for individuals and organizations across various disciplines, including travel grants for conference attendance. Please note that this database requires a paid subscription.

[The International Foundation for Science \(IFS\)](#) provides research grants, travel to conferences, and training courses for IFS grant recipients in developing countries. Travel grants are dispersed to IFS grant recipients.

[The World Academy of Sciences \(TWAS\)](#) provides grants for scientists, including climate and environmental scientists, from low-income countries to attend meetings, workshops, and symposia.

[The Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant](#) provides financial assistance of up to \$2,500 to “artists who have sudden, unanticipated opportunities to present their work” at conferences or other events.

Additional Tips

Start at home. Many travel bursaries and grants are housed within university departments, research institutions, and colleges. Reach out to your place of study / employment to enquire about travel bursaries and funding.

Contact journals and other publications related to your field, and the work you are presenting at the conference. Publications like *Nature* in the past have offered travel-related grants to early career researchers whose work aligns with an ongoing journal theme.

Reach out to organizations and nonprofits whose missions, values, and geographic interests align closely with your research. Use the template below to request sponsorship.

Sponsorship Requests for TC/ESG 2025

How it works:

- Make a copy of the [email template](#). Customize to fit your specific needs. Replace the [...] with the relevant information for you.
- Explain why attending the conference is important to you. Provide a brief overview of your research or work and how it relates to the conference theme.
- Relate your work to the organization's mission statement and values. Clarify how your research and work at the conference advance the organization's overarching goals.
- Request sponsorship to cover your expenses. Be specific about the type of support you need, such as travel costs, registration fees, or accommodation expenses. Include a breakdown of the estimated costs and how the grant will help you attend the conference.
- Provide your contact information. Include your full name, email address, phone number, and any relevant social media handles or website links. This will make it easy for the grant provider to contact you and learn more about your work.
- You can also attach any additional documents, such as your CV, conference abstract, or recommendation letters, to support your application.