

Funding of Conference Trips for Doctoral Students in BIGSAS and in the Cluster

Background: Current BIGSAS policy grants each Junior Fellow to get one summer school and one international conference trip funded by the Cluster. While this arrangement covers the situation of Junior Fellows pursuing their PhD with external funding, it does not cater for the needs of those employed in Cluster-funded projects or in Junior Research Groups. It also excludes those PhD students the Cluster has hired to support our digital agenda, because they cannot pursue their degrees through BIGSAS.

Therefore, the Cluster requires a new policy that considers the different needs of the respective groups, which are further differentiated along disciplinary lines. At the same time, the policy has to balance these needs with equal opportunity concerns and should also reflect aspects of early career support as well as administrative feasibility.

The proposal for a more flexible new policy is as follows:

- Provided they are active participants with a topic closely related to their thesis, all Junior Fellows of BIGSAS may receive funds to attend one summer school, one international conference, and one further conference up to a budget of 1.000 Euro. All applications must be submitted to the BIGSAS Executive Committee. Newly enrolled Junior Fellows are encouraged to list the events they plan to attend in their IRTPs. In exceptional cases, the summer school can be replaced by another conference attendance.
- The Junior Fellows employed in the Cluster may receive funds to attend one additional conference with relevance for the research project or the Junior Research Group of which they are part. The applications are submitted by the project director to the Cluster's Management Board.
- Doctoral students working for the Cluster's digital agenda may attend up to five conferences with Cluster funding, with a maximum of three conferences in physical presence. Applications should be submitted to the Cluster's Management Board by the project director and/or the Vice Dean of Digital Solutions.
- The granting of applications for the funding of additional remote conference attendances is at the discretion of the Management Board.