



INTERNATIONAL  
ASTRONAUTICAL  
FEDERATION



# IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Programme



# President's Welcome

Dear Space Enthusiasts,

I am very pleased to address this special message to you in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAF Emerging Space Leaders (ESL) Grant Programme.

In October 2008, the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) approved a new initiative to actively engage, inspire and support the next generation of students and young professionals to prepare them to be the future leaders of the international space community. As part of this initiative, the IAF began a new programme to provide grants that enable students and young space professionals to participate in IAF activities, in particular the International Astronautical Congress (IAC).

Every year since 2009, the IAF Emerging Space Leaders Grant Programme (ESL Grants) has given 10 to 12 students and young professionals between the ages of 21 and 35 the chance to participate in the IAC, as well as in the UN/IAF Workshop and the Space Generation Congress, both held the week prior to the Congress.

When the ESL Programme was initiated, the IAF Bureau and General Assembly encouraged IAF Member Organizations in their respective countries to establish similar, complementary initiatives at the national level.

In 2012, the Future Space Leaders Foundation (FSLF) was established in the United States. Since then, the FSLF has supported 30 students and young professionals from the United States to attend the IAC.



*Dr. Jean-Yves Le Gall*  
IAF President

And in 2014, the IAF signed an agreement with the HE Space Children's Foundation (HESCF), a Dutch non-profit Organization, which financially supports the ESL Programme by funding two additional students to attend the IAC.

I would like to personally congratulate all the Emerging Space Leaders who have been selected so far, and I deeply encourage students and young professionals to apply to the programme for the opportunity to actively participate in the IAC.



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The IAC was the most incredible event I have ever being part of. I will never forget it. Many thanks to the IAF who funded this great experience.”





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Attending the IAC encouraged me to undertake a PhD, which is still on-going, so it is fair to say that my attendance significantly shaped my professional goals.”

“ My experience has blessed a lot of high school students in Nigeria, because at my return I launched a program titled TAKE SPACE TO GRASSROOT which was sponsored by HE Space Children Foundation. I was involved in STEM mentoring programs, encouraging sustainable space development in the country. I have also set a research team in my University where I was a project group leader, on Climate Change Research studies and Environmental Monitoring programs. I have expanded my contribution in teaching practical classes in Remote Sensing and GIS.”



“ At the IAC, I was surprised by the openness and ease of starting conversations between the participants irrespectively of their nationality, seniority, profession, etc... And how quickly one can run out of business cards.”



“

Coming from Ethiopia a very poor country, the chance to attend the IAC by itself is a very big deal and overwhelming experience. For me the IAC was an eye opener, it gave me a new perspective towards regional and global space trends and things I can do to take part (to pursue in space careers).”



“

I had never attended an IAC before. I was excited to meet new people, learn new skills and present my paper. It was the first paper that was presented from my country.”

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I have made a lots of friends from all around the world that I'm in contact with most of them to date.”

“ IAC is truly a great event for professionals and students in aerospace. It is great to be in a place where literally all the biggest companies and research organizations are. I also enjoyed very much the multi-cultural environment and the networking.”

“

It was the best opportunity for me, not only to learn about new space topics, and share my points of view, but also to learn about the situation and future perspectives in other countries.”



“ I would say that ESL programme opened a new world for me! Without it, I would never had so many opportunities!”

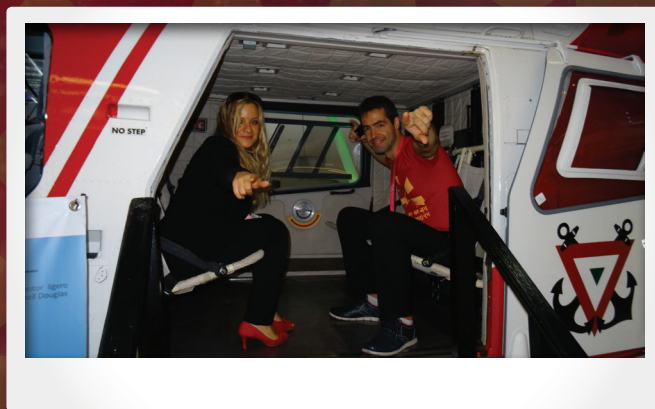




“ I was very impressed by all the youths and their involvement in science.”



“ I especially enjoyed the Cross-Cultural Presentation Workshop before the IAC where I learnt so many interesting things about the congress and how to face an audience. It was a great pleasure to meet Ms. Carol Carnett and Mr. Scott Madry and learn from them.”



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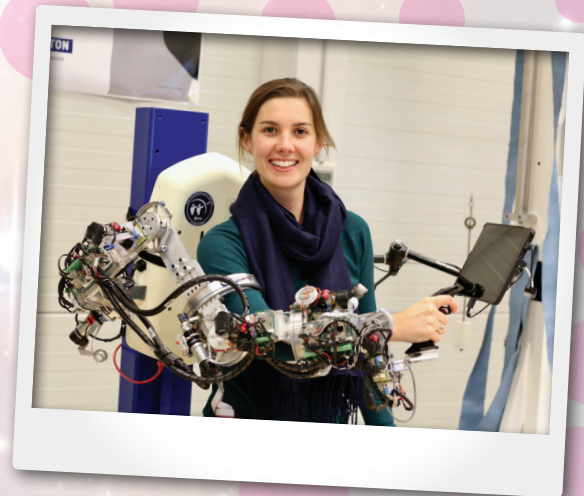
The IAC pushed me to pursue a space law career and to establish a Serbian office for space sciences, a first NGO of a kind in Serbia.”

“

What I valued the most was the opportunity to meet so many important individuals that have contributed greatly to the progress of mankind through space exploration. It made me feel inspired.”

“

Since coming from the IAC, I got a chance to get involved in space issues in Africa. With the contacts I met in Jerusalem I got invited to attend 2015 African Leadership Conference for Science and Technology in Egypt where I contributed on addressing space developments challenges in Africa. After coming back from the IAC, I also got a new job at Ethiopian Space Science Society as PR and Communication manager. All this is inspired from attending the IAC.”





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