



WORLD COUNCIL OF OPTOMETRY

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

World Council of Optometry (WCO)

WCO is the worldwide organisation for the professionals working in the field of optometry, their associations and institutions. WCO has over 85 member associations from 48 countries across 6 world regions. WCO is the first and only optometric organisation in official relations with the World Health Organization and also maintains the highest level of membership in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness.

- WCO's mission is – *To facilitate the enhancement and development of eye and vision care worldwide via education, humanitarian outreach and policy development.*
- The WCO secretariat is based at the College of Optometrists in London and the 2009-2011 President is Professor George Woo, Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

WCO defines Optometry as follows:

“Optometry is a healthcare profession that is autonomous, educated, and regulated (licensed/registered), and optometrists are the primary healthcare practitioners of the eye and visual system who provide comprehensive eye and vision care, which includes refraction and dispensing, detection/diagnosis and management of disease in the eye, and the rehabilitation of conditions of the visual system”

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The World Optometry Foundation supports the provision of World Council of Optometry Fellowships. WCO Fellowships are intended to support the development of eye and vision care worldwide by providing financial assistance to optometrists in the following three categories:

1. Travel bursaries
2. Technical supports for WCO projects
3. Ad hoc applications (which do not meet criteria for travel or WCO project support fellowships)

TYPES OF FELLOWSHIP AND CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

1. Travel Bursaries (maximum £1800)

Examples of these fellowships are:

- Bursaries for attendance at educational events or conferences with an optometric/eye and vision care focus
- Travel to visit optometric/eye and vision institutions to share expertise and good practice.



Preference will be given to applications from developing and middle income countries (according to the World Bank 2009 classification) and applications to travel to developing and middle income countries (according to World Bank 2009 classification)

2. Technical Support for WCO defined projects (maximum **£3000** per year for up to 2 years)

This is for support for WCO defined projects as recommended to the WCO Governing Board by the Standing Committees in Education, Public Health and Legislation, Regulation and Standards. Information on WCO defined projects will be listed on the WCO website www.worldoptometry.org

3. Ad hoc applications (maximum **£1800**)

These are for projects, travel or initiatives which do not fall under the fellowship categories 1 or 2 above but which can demonstrate a direct relevance to the WCO mission.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

1. Applicant must be an optometrist or student of optometry
2. Applicants must be a member of a WCO member organizations (if one exists in their country)
3. Only one fellowship application to made at any one time
4. Preference will be given to applicants who have not received WCO fellowships in the past
5. Evidence to be given in the application of how the proposed funding would contribute to the development of eye and vision care locally and worldwide through either
 - a. Education and/or
 - b. Humanitarian outreach and/or
 - c. Policy development
6. Applicants must indicate what other sources of funding have been applied for
7. For categories 1 (travel bursaries) and 3 (ad hoc applications) preference will be given to applicants from developing and middle income countries (according to the World Bank 2009 classification) and applications to travel to developing and middle income countries (according to World Bank 2009 classification)

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Invitations for applications will be issued twice a year
2. All applications must be made on the Fellowship Application form and additional information may be requested by the Fellowship Committee or WCO secretariat.
3. Receipt of applications will be provided by the WCO Secretariat as proof of receipt.



4. The WCO Fellowship Committee will consider applications and applicants will be informed of the final decision within 3 months of the closing date for applications.
5. Consideration of applications received after the closing date will be made at the discretion of the Fellowship Committee.
6. The WCO Fellowship Committee will review and agree the successful applications (additional information may be requested to inform the decision) and notify the WCO Executive Committee of the successful candidates. The final decision for fellowships will be made by the Fellowship Committee.
7. All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by the WCO secretariat.
8. All successful applicants will be required to provide a written report to WCO on the outcomes of the Fellowship and acknowledge WCO/WOF in all publications or publicity regarding the travel or project
9. Fellowship travel bursaries category will cover only economy (coach) class ticket for rail or flight. All claims are to be submitted on the proper WCO form with receipts attached within 6 weeks of the date to which they relate.
10. All applications are to be send to the World Council of Optometry (WCO) Secretariat

World Council of Optometry

42 Craven Street

WC2N 5NG London

United Kingdom

enquiries@worldoptometry.org

Fax: +44 (0)207 839 6800



APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Address:

..... Post Code /ZIP

Email:

Phone: Fax:

Please indicate which category you are applying under

- Application for: Travel Bursary
 Technical Support for projects defined by WCO
 Ad hoc application (does meet above criteria)

Total applied for: (to be given in British Pound Sterling)

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Expected Outcomes

.....
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Timescale

Which WCO member organisation are you a member of?

Name

Address

.....

Membership No.

Please note that you will be required to provide proof of your membership of the WCO member organisation

Have you received a WCO Fellowship in the past? Yes No

If so, please give details

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Have you applied for any other source of funding? Yes No

If so, please name the organization and the amount received/ expected

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Please attach curriculum vitae and a list of two references. Please note hand written applications received, will be not be considered.



Please provide a summary of Project/ travel in no more than 200 words. (If applying under the travel bursary to attend a conference as a presenter, please provide the name of the abstract or poster)

Please provide a breakdown of budgetary request

A written report is expected within three months after completion of the programme. The report should include:

- Title of the project
- Summary of work undertaken
- Outcomes



Applicant Signature

Date

Date received by WCO Secretariat

Date acknowledgement Sent

Application meet criteria Yes No

Response to applicant to be sent by

Decision of Fellowship Committee