



IUGS–COGE

2026 Early Career Geoscience Education Grant

Overview and Objectives

The COGE Early Career (EC) Geoscience Education Grant is a targeted support initiative designed to enable early-career geoscientists and geoscience educators to participate in international conferences and events that contribute to geoscience education, outreach, science communication and capacity building.

The grant is designed to strengthen the participation of emerging professionals in international geoscience education networks, particularly those from under-represented regions and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

COGE recognises that early-career pathways are diverse and do not always follow a traditional academic trajectory. Accordingly, eligibility is based primarily on career stage, professional trajectory and involvement in geoscience education, rather than academic status or age alone. The grant aims to:

- Support early-career participation in international geoscience education events.
- Strengthen global networks and capacity-building opportunities for emerging geoscientists and educators.
- Promote participation from under-represented regions and LMIC countries.
- Increase the visibility of early-career contributions to geoscience education, outreach and science communication.
- Facilitate the dissemination of educational initiatives and experiences through COGE programmes and communication channels.
- Contribute to a more diverse, equitable and globally representative geoscience education community.

Target Audience in Alignment with IUGS Priorities

In accordance with the guidance of the IUGS Executive Committee the grant provides partial financial support for participation in eligible international conferences and events, with funding limited to eligible travel-related expenses. The initiative supports COGE's mission to promote global collaboration in geoscience education through academic and professional exchange, international conference participation and dissemination of educational initiatives.

The grant is intended for EC geoscientists and geoscience educators whose work or professional activities contribute to geoscience education, educational outreach, science communication, capacity building in Earth science education; or related areas that strengthen learning and engagement with the Earth sciences. Relevant areas of work may include:

- Geoscience education;
- Teacher education and professional development;
- Educational outreach;
- Science communication;



- Earth science literacy;
- Digital tools, geodata and AI in education;
- Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in geoscience education;
- Indigenous and local knowledge, geoethics and related approaches to Earth science education;
- Capacity building in Earth science education; and
- Other related activities that contribute to innovation, accessibility, participation or international collaboration in geoscience education.

Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their work or contribution to the eligible event aligns with one or more of these areas and contributes to the broader mission and priorities of COGE.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants should be EC geoscientists and geoscience educators whose academic, professional or educational activities demonstrate a clear connection to the mission of COGE. Applicants may include:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate students, including MSc and PhD candidates;
- recent graduates and postdoctoral researchers;
- early-career university, college or other educators;
- early-career professionals working in geoscience education, outreach, science communication or related fields;
- early-career professionals working in geological surveys, government agencies, NGOs, professional organisations or other institutions whose activities have a clear geoscience education, outreach or capacity-building component.

Early-career status will be considered in relation to the applicant's current career stage and professional trajectory. COGE recognises that career pathways may be diverse and non-linear. Career interruptions, career changes and other circumstances affecting career progression will be taken into consideration where relevant. Applicants may provide additional information about their career trajectory in the application form.

Additional Conditions

Applicants must:

- have an accepted contribution at an eligible event, which may include an oral or poster presentation, workshop, panel or roundtable contribution, or another recognised contribution relevant to the objectives of the grant;
- demonstrate a clear connection between their work or contribution and geoscience education, educational outreach, science communication, Earth science literacy, capacity building, or another relevant area aligned with COGE's mission;
- not be a resident of the country where the eligible event takes place;
- not have received a COGE travel grant in the previous grant cycle.



Geographic Balance and Inclusion

The grant prioritises global representation and equitable participation, with particular attention to EC researchers from under-represented regions and LMIC countries (according to the World Bank classification). Selection principles include:

- At least 50% of grants awarded to applicants from LMIC countries
- Maximum one grant per country per cycle
- Balanced representation across IUGS regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, North America)
- gender balance and diversity.
- participation from regions and communities that are under-represented in international geoscience education networks.

Applicants with partial institutional or external support remain eligible to apply. The availability and level of other funding will be considered when assessing financial need and the amount of COGE support requested.

Applicants may indicate accessibility, visa or other practical needs in the application. This information will be used only to assess participation feasibility and appropriate support.

Eligible Events

Participation in events addressing geoscience education, Earth science literacy, and science communication is particularly encouraged. Priority will be given to:

- COGE-endorsed events included in [the COGE 2026 Events Schedule](#)
- IUGS-recognised events relevant to geoscience education and outreach.
- recognised international conferences and collaborative forums addressing geoscience education, Earth science literacy, educational outreach or science communication.

Grant Structure

The grant provides partial financial support to complement and facilitate participation in international events. Its funding principles are:

- Partial support only (70% of eligible costs)
- Co-funding from the applicant's home institution or other sources is encouraged.

Eligible expenses may include:

- Economy-class airfare
- Conference registration fees
- Accommodation during conference dates.
- Transportation during conference dates.

Financial procedure: The grant operates on a reimbursement basis.

- No cash advances will be provided.



- Original receipts and required financial documentation must be submitted.
- Reimbursement will be provided only after the supported activity and submission of the required documentation and post-event report, in accordance with IUGS financial procedures.

Expected Impact and Knowledge Dissemination

The grant is designed to support participation of EC in international events and to strengthen the broader impact of EC contributions to geoscience education. Within four (04) weeks of the supported event, recipients will provide:

- A 1–page post-event report describing the educational relevance of the event and key outcomes and opportunities for future collaboration
- A short communication or dissemination product to support COGE outreach activities. Possible dissemination outputs include:
 - contribution to a COGE awareness campaign;
 - participation in a COGE webinar or discussion;
 - a short educational resource or flyer;
 - contribution to GEFO communication channels;
 - a short article, profile or feature for the COGE website;
 - a social media contribution highlighting the recipient's experience and/or educational initiative.

Where appropriate, recipients may also be invited to share their experience with other early-career geoscientists through COGE networks.

Grant Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by an international panel evaluator who will assess each one according to the following criteria:

- academic or professional merit of the accepted abstract
- relevance to geoscience education, outreach, science communication or capacity building
- early-career status and professional trajectory;
- financial need and availability of alternative funding;
- geographic diversity and representation;
- potential impact and knowledge-dissemination value;
- Alignment with COGE priorities (2026 Work Plan).

Governance and Conflict of Interest Policy

To ensure transparency and fairness:

- Any COGE members (Regular or Associate), Field Officer (GEFO Programme), and their immediate families are not eligible to apply.
- Panel evaluators must not have a personal or professional relationship with an applicant to this Grant.



- Where necessary, applications may be evaluated using double-blind review procedures.
- Conflict-of-interest declarations and relevant evaluation records will be documented and retained in accordance with IUGS governance and audit requirements.

Reporting

In accordance with IUGS reporting requirements, the COGE Annual Report will include:

- names of grant recipients
- institutional affiliations
- contact information
- supported events
- summary of outcomes and dissemination activities.

Project Coordination

- Project Coordinator: Monica Guzman (EOP Chair)
- Awards and Evaluation: Xavier Juan (Awards Committee), CJ Landicho (EOP/SM teams)
- Governance and Compliance: María Julia Solari (Governance and Membership Committee - GMC)
- Communications and Dissemination: Social Media (SM)Team
- Collaborating units: GMC

Implementation Timeline

Milestone	Timeline	Responsible
Launch of grant call	25 August 2026	EOP Subcommission
Application deadline	25 September 2026	GMC
Eligibility and completeness check	26 - 30 September 2026	GMC
Review and evaluation of applications	1– 7 October 2026	EOP–Awards Review Panel
Compliance and governance review	8 –12 October 2026	Compliance Advisor
Final approval	13 October 2026	COGE Board
Notification of all applicants and announcement of recipients	14 October 2026	COGE Secretariat / Social Media Team



Submission of activity and financial reports	Within four weeks of completion of the funded activity	Grant recipients
Inclusion of results in COGE annual reporting	January 2027	COGE Secretariat

Resources and Budget

The grant provides 70 % financial support or up to USD 3,200 per successful applicant, in accordance with the funding principles and eligible expenses specified above.

The actual amount awarded to each successful applicant will depend on the eligible costs incurred, the level of other financial support available, the assessment of financial need, and the overall availability of funds.

The number and value of grants awarded will remain subject to the available annual budget, eligible applications received, and geographic distribution considerations. Up to two grants will be awarded on this cycle.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme performance will be monitored through:

Operational indicators

- number of applications received;
- number of grants awarded;
- geographic distribution of applicants and recipients;
- proportion of recipients from LMIC countries;
- representation across IUGS regions;
- participation in COGE-endorsed or IUGS-recognised events.

Impact indicators

- Post-event reports submitted by grant recipients
- Educational dissemination outputs (webinar, awareness campaign materials, GEFO outreach contributions)
- Contributions to COGE communication channels and programme activities.

The project outcomes and beneficiary information will be documented in the COGE Annual Report to IUGS, in accordance with EC reporting requirements.

Approved by the COGE Board: 08.03.2026; Approved by the IUGS Executive: 22.08.2026

Final Review and Feedback from COGE Leaders Before Website Launch: 31.08.2026