2024 Yamagiwa-Yoshida Memorial International Cancer (YY) Study Grants

Application guidelines

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Introduction

The [Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)](#) is the oldest and largest global membership organisation dedicated to taking action on cancer. UICC's mission is both to unite and support the cancer community in its efforts to reduce the global cancer burden, promote greater equity and ensure that cancer control remains a priority on the global health and development agenda.

Founded in 1933 and based in Geneva, Switzerland, UICC has more than 1100 member organisations in over 170 countries and territories. Members include the world's major cancer leagues and societies, research institutes, treatment centres, hospitals, ministries of health, public health agencies and patient support groups. UICC has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and has official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO) and partnerships with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UICC is committed to working in partnership, and engages over 60 partners, including associations, companies and foundations, to amplify and extend its collective impact. UICC is a founding member of the NCD Alliance, the McCabe Centre for Law & Cancer, the International Cancer Control Partnership (ICCP) and established the City Cancer Challenge Foundation in 2019 and the Access to Oncology Medicines (ATOM) Coalition in 2022.

For nearly 60 years, the UICC Fellowship programmes have provided over 4,100 cancer professionals worldwide with opportunities to acquire new skills in cancer control. Upon returning home, awarded Fellows implement these skills in their institutions, thereby contributing to the global fight against cancer. For more information about UICC fellowships, please visit http://www.uicc.org/capacity-building/grants/fellowships. The [Yamagiwa Yoshida Memorial International Cancer (YY) Study Grants](#) programme was launched in 1975 by the [Japan National Committee for UICC](#), which has been a full UICC member since 1948. Since its inception, the YY Study Grant programme has contributed to the professional development of over 330 Fellows from over 40 countries. Through three-month international collaborative projects, postdoctoral cancer researchers are given the opportunity to initiate or pursue research projects with international collaborators, enabling them to exchange knowledge, skills, and techniques in cancer research. The annual YY Study Grant call opens each year in September/October.

The YY Study Grants is one of three programmes that make up the UICC fellowship portfolio in 2024, including the [Technical Fellowships](#), with its sub-programmes translated into French for Francophone Africa, [Bourses pour l'Afrique Francophone](#) and into Spanish for Latin America, [Becas para América Latina](#), as well as the [Virtual Fellowships](#) programme which is an online alternative to in-person visits allowing cancer professionals from UICC member organisations to obtain expert learning and guidance in cancer control through one-to-one video calls with experts in English, French or Spanish. This year, the Technical Fellowships call opened between 3 June and 12 August and focused on public health and the training of health professionals on cost-effective and evidence-based cancer control strategies and interventions relevant to and appropriate to the applicant's context, and the wider health system. The Virtual Fellowships programmes are open between the end of January and December.

Objectives of the YY Study Grants

The [Yamagiwa-Yoshida International Memorial (YY) Study Grant programme](#) aims specifically at supporting established cancer investigators from any country to:

- initiate, set up or pursue bilateral cancer research projects with collaborating investigators abroad.
- exchange complementary research skills and materials.
- receive training in advanced experimental cancer research methods and techniques.

Call for proposals

The YY Study Grant call opens on **Sunday, 15 September and will close at midnight CET on Friday, 15 November 2024**, with notification of results to candidates in December. The 2024 YY Study Grant visits should therefore be planned to take place in 2025.

YY Study Grant awards

A maximum of US$ 10,000 is available for a three month visit. The funding is intended to be a contribution towards living and travel costs and do not include internal travel within the home and/or host countries or additional costs for visa, passports or airport taxes. The awards do not cover medical care, insurance, or taxes; none of which UICC or the Japanese National Committee are liable for. They also do not provide support for accompanying dependents. The level of funding awarded will be calculated by UICC, according to the duration of the visit, the location of the home and host institutions and published scales of living costs in the host country.

Target candidates

The target candidates of the YY Study Grants are established cancer researchers, including clinicians, epidemiologists, and/or public health professionals.

Eligibility criteria

- In terms of scope, YY Study Grants are not intended to support clinical training, therefore applications that are clinical observerships are not eligible; please refer to the [Technical Fellowships programme](#) for such projects.
- Applications that include requests for basic training, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses, etc. are not eligible.
- Applicants must have been awarded their PhD (or equivalent) at least two years prior to the publication date of the call for proposals, i.e. 15 September 2024. First-level professional degrees will not be considered in themselves as PhD-equivalent, even if recipients carry the title "Doctor".
- Applicants may be of any nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application, provided it is different from the country of the host organisation.
- Applications should ideally be for a visit of a minimum period of three consecutive months. Shorter durations should be fully justified, with candidates applying for a visit of two months or less being recommended to apply for a [Technical Fellowship](#) instead.
- Applicants must have track record of publications in cancer research (basic, clinical or public health research) in peer reviewed scientific journals.
- To permit effective communication at the host institute, applicants and host supervisors must have adequate fluency in a common language.
- Applicants attached to commercial entities or have associations with the tobacco, alcohol or arms industries are not eligible to apply.
- Only one UICC fellowship (including Technical Fellowships and YY Study Grants) can be awarded during the same calendar year.

- Applicants who have already obtained a UICC fellowship in the past may apply for further UICC awards <u>only</u> if they are a member of the Association of UICC Fellows and at least one year has passed since the start date of their previous fellowship visit.

Host supervisors and institutions

It is the responsibility of applicants to identify a suitable host supervisor, to contact them and obtain their agreement to host them for three months.

For examples of host institutions, applicants are encouraged to visit the [YY Study Grants](#) as well as the [Technical Fellowships](#) websites, where there is a list of the previous years' awardees and the institutions they visited. In addition, applicants should look at the [Map of UICC member organisations](#) for potential hosts, where they can search by country or discipline.

Host supervisors should provide a detailed summary of their research activities in relation to the proposed applicant's project, justifying the relevance of the choice of host supervisor, and host organisation. This will include a one-page resume and a letter inviting the applicant to visit them. These two documents should be sent to the applicant for them to upload as part of their online application. The applicant should also invite the home and host supervisors via the SmartSimple platform to register and submit online host supervisor forms, or complete them manually for the applicant to upload as pdfs (see online submission guidelines for more details).

Selection criteria and application review

Projects in translational, implementation, public health, clinical or applied research in the field of cancer are encouraged.

All applications undergo a preliminary review for eligibility and completeness, and any application that is incomplete or does not comply with the eligibility criteria outlined below will not be considered by the Review Committee and will be automatically rejected.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by an independent Review Committee according to a peer-review process, and final decisions will be made by the Programme Chair based on the Committee's evaluations and the budget available.

The following criteria will be considered by the Review Committee when evaluating the proposals:

1. Candidate's background and track record, and the anticipated professional development
2. Host institute and supervisor's suitability given the desired skill and knowledge to be gained
3. Feasibility of the project during the proposed timeframe
4. Anticipated impact of the project on unmet needs in cancer control in the candidate's country, context or setting
5. Relevance to the home institution's context, aligning with its infrastructure and strategic research goals.
6. Long-term public health impact of the project and its capacity to transfer skills and knowledge to support improved cancer control
7. General quality and importance of the project

The Review Committee's evaluations are confidential and cannot be divulged to applicants. The funding decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Fellowship conditions

- As UICC Fellowships are intended to support the development of human resources for cancer in the home institution and country of the Fellow, UICC Fellows, including those awarded a YY Study Grant are expected to return to their home institutes/country at the end of the fellowship period.

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- Fellowships cannot be granted to candidates who are already physically present at the proposed host institute whilst their applications are under consideration i.e. the period between the closing date for applications and receipt of the countersigned Letter of Award by UICC.
- Fellowships are granted subject to adequate funds being available.
- The original duration of the YY Study Grant cannot be prolonged, or run concurrently with other awards, even those funded by other agencies. The visit can however be extended by a maximum of two months subject to the written approval of home and host supervisors, however, no additional funds will be made available by UICC.
- Fellowships may not be financially supplemented by agencies other than the home or host institutes, or the Fellows themselves. Should return of the Fellow to their home country be delayed for more than six months and without prior approval from UICC, 50 percent of the Study Grant must be reimbursed to UICC.
- Fellowship visits should take place in one single visit (i.e., one three month visit for YY Study Grants – not over a series of shorter visits).
- Fellowships that are terminated prematurely must be notified promptly to UICC and appropriate funds relative to the time remaining for the YY Study Grant be reimbursed.
- The UICC requires an end-of-project report in English within one month after the end of the fellowship visit, in addition to the completion of a post one-year online survey.

End of project reports

Within one month of the end of the project, a report describing the work undertaken and the results achieved must be submitted to the UICC through the SmartSimple evaluation platform. To enhance the presentation of the report, high-resolution photos of the Fellow at the host institution, preferably with their host supervisor should be included. This report must be approved and the performance during the fellowship evaluated by the host supervisor.

Failure to comply with the completion of an end of project report may result in the request for the return of UICC funds. Both home and host supervisors will be notified should this occur.

Post one-year survey

Approximately one year after completion of the YY Study Grant and the return of the applicant to her/his home institute/hospital an online survey will be sent to the Fellow to complete to provide longer term feedback on the potential outcomes and impact of the fellowship.

Association of UICC Fellows (AUF)

Upon successful completion of a YY Study Grant, i.e. submission of the endorsed end-of-project report to UICC, Fellows are invited to join the Association of UICC Fellows (AUF). Life-time membership carries a subscription fee of US$ 50 and members receive a certificate pdf.

Only Members of AUF are eligible to submit a further application for a UICC fellowship or YY Study Grant. New members who work in low and middle income countries may benefit from a one-year complimentary subscription to the UICC International Journal of Cancer, a generous offer made by its Publishers, Wiley & Son Inc., New York.

Online submission

Applications for the YY Study Grants will be received and processed through the SmartSimple grants management system. Information on how to access the platform, create your profile and submit your application are described below:

Register an account and login

Please click here to access SmartSimple grant management platform.
If you are a new user in SmartSimple, you will be required to click the 'Register here' button under 'New to the system?' and complete the registration process.
After registering, you will receive an email with a link to create a password.
Please return to the login page and login to your account with your e-mail address and password.
If you are already registered in SmartSimple, please access the site and log in with your e-mail address and password.

Start your application

- Select the **Funding Opportunities** box under **Applications**. The list of open funding opportunities will be shown.
- Select **YY Study Grants** and click the **Apply Now** link. A new application form will be created.
- Click on the **Save** button to activate the form and start working on it.
- If you start an application and need to complete it at a later time you can click the '**Save Draft**' button at the bottom of the application. When you return to the platform you can find this saved application in by clicking on the **In Progress** box under **Applications** and open the application.
- On the SmartSimple main application page, beneath the general instructions, there are five tabs with fields to complete:

CONTACT INFORMATION FELLOWSHIP SUMMARY HOST ORGANISATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION APPLICANT BIO-SKETCH

Mandatory questions are marked with a red asterisk (*), if you click 'Submit' without completing one of the mandatory fields, you will receive an error message directing you to the blank or uncomplete question.

1. Contact information

Select your organisation

Please start typing the name of the organisation in the text field and select it if you find a match. If you cannot find it this way, use the Lookup button to see a list of all the organisations registered in the system. If you still to not see it, please press the blue plus icon on the top left-hand side and add its name, city and phone number. You will then be asked to fill the following fields regarding your institution:

Please contact fellows@uicc.org if you need technical assistance.

Select yourself as Primary Contact

Invite Home and Host Supervisors

Go to the Home and Host **Supervisor forms** section on the left hand side of the screen, and click on the blue Invitations button to start inviting your home and host supervisors to complete their sections of your application. On the **Invitations** window that pops up, click the blue plus **+** icon to add a home or host supervisor.

Click on the **Save** button to save your home or host supervisor, and click on the **Invite** button next to it when you are ready to send the invitations.

When the invitations have been sent out you will see that the status of the home or host supervisor has changed to **Invited**.

The supervisors invited will receive an email including a link to direct them to the platform.

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Dear Dorya Host Supervisor,

Dorya Applicant has invited you to join an UICC grant application as a Supervisor. Please click on this link: https://uicc.eu-1.smartsimple.eu/ex/ex_invitation.jsp?lang=1&token=%24BhTcqgUpKcAKClznHmxFpx8IxRkVoX35%2BfPsMljv4F4%3D to be redirected to the online grant application system to accept or decline the invitation. If you do not already have an account, you will be asked to create one.

UICC Team

When the home or host supervisor clicks on the link provided, they will be asked to **Accept** or **Decline** the invitation made.

If the home or host supervisor accepts and already has an account, they can go to the login page and login to the system. If they are new users, they will be directly sent to the Registration page to create an account.

When the supervisors login to the system, they will see their assigned Home/Host supervisor forms under **Assigned Forms Pending**.
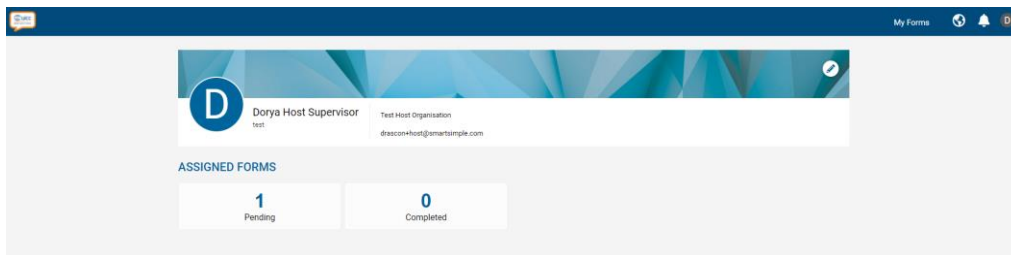
When the home or host supervisors open their pending form, they will see a number of fields already completed. Mandatory fields to complete regarding the applicant, the title of the fellowship and the proposed date of the visit are marked with a red asterisk.

Once all the fields are completed, supervisor users can press the **Complete** button.

After both host and home supervisor forms have been completed, you will notice that the status of your invited users is **Accepted**.

If applicants prefer to submit the home and host supervisor forms manually, go to the Document submission section of the application and you can download the appropriate home and host attestation forms as Word documents, complete them, and ask your supervisors to print and sign them for you to upload as pdf documents.

Please contact fellows@uicc.org if you need technical assistance.

2. Fellowship summary

Project start and end dates:

Insert the start and end dates of your planned visit. Visits with start dates that are less than 60 days after the date of call closure (i.e. 15 November 2024) will not be considered. You should also allow sufficient time to complete visa requests if awarded.

Total number of days of proposed visit duration:

Insert the total number of days of your proposed visit. YY Study Grants should be three months in duration, approximately 90 days.

Project title:

Please enter a concise title, no longer than 80 characters.

Topic:

Select one of the seven listed topics which your project covers.

Main cancer type:

Type which cancer type your project concerns, mentioning if your project is relevant to all cancer types.

Have you applied to another funding source for support for the same project and period?

Fellowships may not be financially supplemented by agencies other than the home or host institutes or the Fellows themselves. If you select yes, you will be asked to provide more details.

Abstract

Provide a brief summary of your project that can be understood by a general audience (approx. 500 words).

How did you learn about the fellowship programme?

Please how you learned about the programme, whether through Internet search, UICC website, UICC conference, UICC, newsletter, a colleague at home or host institution, congress or other.

3. Host organisation

Host organisation name:

Start typing the name of the organisation in the text field and select it if you find a match. If you cannot find it use the Lookup button to see a list of all the organisations registered in the system. If you still to not see it, please press the blue plus icon on the top left-hand side and add its name, city and phone number, as explained above under Contact information: Select your organisation.

Please add the Department name of the host organisation that you plan to visit, the organisation's working language and your level of knowledge of the language spoken at the host institution. You are required to upload a scan of a signed letter of invitation on institution's headed notepaper, officially inviting the applicant to visit the host institution as well as a one page resumé of the host supervisor's publications related to the project-related activities and publications.

4. Project description

Along with your track record and personal statement, this is the most important component of your application. It should be prepared by yourself and be approved by your home and host supervisors. It should include sufficient details to allow international peer reviewers who are experts in the field of your project to evaluate its quality, timeliness, relevance and duration and have the potential for a lasting and long term impact.

Project objectives

Include specific objectives that you want to achieve by the end of your visit.

Expected skills and knowledge to be transferred

Please provide details about the new skills or knowledge in cancer control that will be gained during your visit.

Detailed work plan

Please provide details of how the specific objectives will be achieved. You should include at least 4 paragraphs of text in complete sentences where you describe in detail your planned activities during your proposed visit. Please confer with your host supervisor to agree on the workplan.

Reason(s) for choice of host institute and supervisor

Please provide information justifying the choice of host institute, and host supervisor, given the desired skills and knowledge to be gained during your visit.

Justification of project's duration and feasibility

Explain why the selected duration is feasible and suitable to achieve the objectives of the project.

Context of home institution

Please outline the context of the home institution, with respect to your ability to continue the project upon your return, opportunities for further funding, and to implement and pass on the newly acquired skills to others. For example, this should include information regarding the infrastructure available and the alignment of the proposed project with the strategic research goals of the institution.

Project context and relevance in your country

Please describe the cancer control context in your country, and provide information on why this project is relevant and will help to address areas of need.

Long-term impact

Describe the potential long-term impact the project will have on cancer control in your country.

Certification

Please confirm that if the application is successful, you will return to your home institute at the end of the fellowship. Please confirm that the information in the application is true and complete to the best of your knowledge. Please state that you understand that any false statement is sufficient cause for rejection of this application or for cancellation of a fellowship already awarded.

5. Applicant Bio-Sketch

Personal statement

Please summarise your motivation for this fellowship, and explain why this opportunity is relevant and appropriate, given your experience, track record and anticipated professional development.

Education / training

Click on the blue icon "Enter details".
Click the plus icon

Education / Training

ⓘ Begin with your University degree or other initial professional education such as nursing training, include any postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.

Organisation name	City and Country	Qualification obtained	Description of Qualification	Start date	End date

List your education and training, beginning with your University Degree, or other initial professional education, and including any postdoctoral training. Include the name of the organisation name, city and country, the qualification obtained, a short description and the start and end date of the period of study. To be eligible for the YY Study grants at least two years must have passed since your PhD qualification.

Positions

List professional posts you have held since finishing your education, including job title and institution name, city and country, concluding with the present position at the bottom.

Prizes and awards

Indicate any awards, grants or prizes you have received, including fellowships, including the date obtained.

Publications most relevant to this application

List up to five applications relevant to the proposed project that include you as one of the co-authors.

All peer reviewed publications

List all of publications in chronological order where you are author or co-author.

Abstracts or posters at conferences

List all abstracts in chronological order.

Previous UICC fellowship awards

List any previous UICC Fellowship awards including the dates of the visit.

Research Funding

List all ongoing and completed research projects in which you are/were the principal investigator or co-investigator. Include a brief summary of overall goals of the project and your responsibilities.

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Update your application

The contact information page contains your contact details from the initial registration step. If there are any errors on your application (whether from an error entering the information or the information has changed since submitting a previous application) please update your profile by clicking on the circle with your initials in the upper right-hand corner. You can update your application any time you wish before it is submitted.

Submit your application

When you are ready to submit your application click the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the application. After clicking 'Submit' you will not be able to edit the application anymore. Applications will be acknowledged by an email from SmartSimple and if items are missing, applicants will be contacted. Please ensure you have received the acknowledgement message that confirms that your application was submitted.

Feedback on the application

UICC might respond to you with questions through the grant management system. In this case, you will receive a notification from the SmartSimple system via email if additional information is required and additional emails as your application moves through the various phases of assessment. You will receive regular updates on the progress of your application through SmartSimple emails.

In case you experience issues in creating your account or accessing SmartSimple, please contact the Fellowships Team at fellows@uicc.org. The completed application along with all documents must be submitted online in English prior to the published deadline (call closure). Electronic signatures are acceptable. Applications will be acknowledged by an email from SmartSimple.