

CHILDCARE SUPPORT GRANT PILOT PROGRAMME

Background

Balancing work and family needs remains a challenge for young scientists. The need for childcare and the cost of it in the situation of scarce financial resources, or the absence of the caretaker often makes it difficult, especially for young female scientists and single parents, to participate in scientific conferences, workshops and other activities. This can have a negative impact on educational and networking opportunities and eventually on the scientific career progression of very promising scientists, who have to make a difficult choice between their parental obligations and professional development.

Purpose

ICTP is launching a pilot Childcare Grant initiative to enable researchers with young children to attend scientific conferences, schools and meetings, or other scientific activities organized by ICTP on the ICTP campus and eventually contribute to their career success.

Terms and Conditions

- The amount of the grant is 500 EUR per visit.
- Number of grants per calendar year will be subject to funds availability.

Grant applications should be submitted online through the ICTP visitor management portal throughout the calendar year after the participant receives the confirmation of being selected for an activity or program.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Visits to ICTP of less than 90 days.
2. Only participants with an ICTP invitation letter may apply for the grant.
3. The grant is limited to applicants who travel with children under the age of 18 to the scientific event.
4. A valid document showing the family status of the child/children is required.

Priority considerations:

1. Participants from developing countries.
2. Age of child/children
3. Stage of the scientific career of the parent.

Application process:

- Visiting scientists in need of childcare support should apply for the childcare grant normally within one week upon receipt of the acceptance letter/email for conferences, schools and workshops and not later than 3 months before other types of visits (such as STEP, Associates, Section visitors).

- The application link in the visitor management portal becomes available once the visitor confirms his/her visit online.
- The following information is required during the online application process: 1) name and age of the child/children; 2) justification/motivation for the request; 3) preliminary plan on how the funds will be used (e.g. airfare, childcare facility, babysitter, etc.).
- ICTP's Childcare Support Committee will review the applications, ensuring eligibility of applicants, assigning the priority order, and taking into consideration the fair distribution of grants between the organizational units in charge of events/activities.
- The applicant should be informed about whether the grant was approved normally no later than 1 month before the scientific event.

Payment of the grants:

The awardees of the grant must upload the documentation certifying that the child/children is/are accompanying them during their visit to ICTP in Trieste (e.g. boarding passes, train tickets, ICTP Guesthouse registration) in the ICTP visitor management system in order for the grant to be processed.

Other considerations.

- Grant recipients unable to use the grant should notify the Childcare Support Committee as soon as possible in order to release funds for another qualified applicant.
- Health Insurance coverage is mandatory in Italy and grant awardees are required to bring their child's/children's health insurance policy with them and check the validity of the insurance in Italy. In case they are the nationals of a developing country, their accompanying child /children, upon arrival to ICTP, will be enrolled in an international health insurance scheme for the duration of the visit.

Timelines of the pilot: 1 April 2026 - 31 December 2026, extendable as required.