



# **Bharat & Varsha Patel IAE Cardiac Sonographer Travel Grant**

## **Application Process**

### **What it offers?**

This grant serves to support one eligible non-physician cardiac sonographer (Indian National) to attend the annual American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) Scientific Sessions meeting. The grant would fund the travel, accommodation and registration expenses for the awardee (please see below).

### **Eligibility criteria**

To apply for this grant, the applicant would need to fulfil the following criteria-

- Applicant should be an Indian national who is current non-physician, sonographer member of the IAE.
- Those who have IAE accreditation (preferably level II) will be given preference.
- Applicant should have a minimum of 2 years' active experience. Sonographers working actively in a hospital and/or teaching institutions may be given priority to maximize benefit from the ASE experience. Others will be considered based on sonographer merit on a case-to-case basis.
- Sonographers (application or product specialists) working in industry are not entitled to apply.
- Applicant should have demonstrated noteworthy engagement and/or academic contribution to IAE/IAE supported programs. This can include, but need not be limited to-
  - Giving a talk/presentation during the IAE annual meetings,
  - Being an author/co-author on an article accepted in the Journal of Indian Academy of Echocardiography (JIAE),
  - Furthering regional sonographer academic and development programs through active leadership at the regional or national IAE level.
- Sonographers without formal training (with no undergraduate/postgraduate degree or certification) in echocardiography, but who have established themselves based on the above criteria will also be considered.
- Candidates previously selected to attend the ASE or those who have attended ASE in the past are not entitled to apply.

### **Application process**

- The application need to be submitted on a prescribed form which can be downloaded from the IAE website ([www.iaecho.in](http://www.iaecho.in)).
- The candidate would need to submit the following documents with his/her application-
  - Current Curriculum Vitae with detailed echo experience and the nature of the current daily work
  - Proof of IAE accreditation (copy of certificates)
  - Proof of presentation/article acceptance/national or regional leadership initiatives / activities.

- Copy of passport and if available, US visa. The candidate is expected to declare any earlier visits to ASE or to USA.
- Letter from Head of Department/ Medical Director stating current employment and proof of active practice for at least 2 years
- A short 300-word essay written by the candidate describing
  - why he/she would like to attend the ASE Scientific Session
  - which ASE sessions/topics he/she is particularly interested in and
  - how he/she hopes to contribute to sonographer development in his/her department/institute/regional society/national society on his/her return.
- The completed form, in addition to all supporting documents, should be emailed to [iaechohq@gmail.com](mailto:iaechohq@gmail.com). Alternately, the application form and the relevant documents can also be mailed to-

Indian Academy of Echocardiography,

C-1/16, Ashok Vihar, Phase-II, New Delhi-110052, India

- **The last day for submission is 15<sup>th</sup> July of the application year.** Submissions received after the deadline and incomplete submissions will not be considered for the grant.
- The outcomes of the evaluation will be provided to successful awardees by e-mail, and will also be made available on the IAE website ([www.iaecho.in](http://www.iaecho.in)).
- The decision of the selection committee is final and cannot be disputed.
- The selected candidate will be required to sign a “**no claims clause**” with IAE and the ‘Donor’.
- **On his/her return from the ASE conference, the candidate will be required to-**
  - Submit a 500-word write-up on his/her experiences at the ASE, with a focus on academic inputs received during the conference.
  - Plan the submission of an abstract/manuscript submission to the JIAE or any international echocardiography journal/conference within a period of 2 years.
  - Submit a 3-minute video (captured via smartphone/webcam/camera) on the topic ‘How do I contribute to a stronger cardiac sonographer community in India?’ (Optional)
  - Their suggestions for any change/improvement are welcome.

### **Travel arrangements**

- The sonographer selected to attend the ASE is responsible for all expenses related to local travel and application for his/her US visa. The visa should be acquired by last week of February to make necessary international travel bookings. Mr Bharat Patel will arrange for a formal invitation to be issued to the candidate from the ASE headquarters to support his/her visa application. In addition, the IAE will present a letter for visa purposes, although neither of these documents guarantees a successfully obtained US visa. The responsibility lies solely with the candidate to obtain USA visa.
- The approximately \$3500 Sonographer grant will be responsible for-
  - Economy-class international flight tickets to the ASE venue and return within Continental USA
  - Conference registration
  - Accommodation during the period of the ASE conference

- The candidate should be willing to share a room with another sonographer of the same gender, and may have to bear the costs of incidentals, including food and local travel during his/her period of stay in the US.

**Please note:**

**The IAE or the donors/facilitators of this grant (Mr Bharat Patel/ Dr Ashwin Venkateshvaran) will not be held responsible for any events / incidents either during or related to the candidates' travel. As a representative of the Indian sonographer community, the selected candidate should demonstrate good standing with the IAE and conduct himself/herself in a responsible manner during the conference visit.**