

American Meteorological Society

Global Partners Program

Detailed Program Description

By AMS IAVP Program Committee
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Mission. The AMS International Academic Volunteer Program enables AMS members to volunteer their expertise and experience to professionals in academic and other nonprofit organizations worldwide to promote equity, goodwill, and service to the extended atmospheric science community for the benefit of society internationally.

Overview

The International Academic Volunteer Program (IAVP) seeks to connect AMS members who are interested in providing specialized expertise and services to international professionals in academia and other nonprofit organizations. Services proffered to these international scholars/institutions (“International Scholars”) may include but are not limited to assistance in course and curriculum development, research planning and collaboration, public engagement, mentoring and other not-for-profit activities. Such services will typically be provided on a *pro bono* basis except for travel, per diem, communication and other support costs, which could be provided by the International Scholars, their institutions and/or other non-AMS parties¹. The role of the AMS is limited to functioning as an exchange mechanism that facilitates the matching of those International Scholars seeking relevant services with those AMS member-volunteers desiring to provide them.

Once the Program has been implemented, international academic Scholars or their institutions can contact the AMS International Academic Volunteer Committee with specific requests, and the Program Matching Coordinator will query a database of interested AMS member-Volunteers who have the required expertise and are able to commit to providing the requisite services. If the database does not identify appropriate Scholar-Volunteer matches, the opportunity may be shared with the appropriate committee(s) of the AMS Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC), the Commission on the Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise (CWWCE) or other AMS commissions to seek their input on potential volunteers not already in the Volunteer database. Once an academic Scholar/institution accepts the AMS member-Volunteer (under the guidelines of the Program), an agreement will be negotiated by the Volunteer and the International Scholar/ institution that defines the role, limitations, timing and obligations of the parties.

The Program is managed by the AMS International Academic Volunteer Committee (the “Committee”) of the AMS Board on Community Service; Annex 4.2 lists the Committee membership.

¹ In some cases, the international host institution may elect to provide an honorarium to the AMS member-volunteer.

1. Identifying International Scholars

The AIAVP (the “Program”) seeks to reach out to a broad cross-section of atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic, social and related scientists and engineers residing and working abroad to make them aware of the opportunities available through the Program. The Program is available not only to individual scholars, but also research teams and educational classes, such that the Volunteer can mentor, advise or collaborate with Scholars and their students, or professors and their classes, and deliver remote talks and discussion sessions to multiple individuals at the scholar’s institution.

Information Required from and Guidance for International Scholars

International Scholars seeking to collaborate with an AMS member-Volunteer through this Program are required to provide information about themselves and the nature of the proposed collaboration. Described below are examples of appropriate and inappropriate collaborations, criteria and guidelines for collaborations and information required on the application form.

○ Examples of appropriate collaborations

- Visits of the Volunteer to a Scholar’s home institution to give lectures or seminars, interact with students, develop teaching material, assist with lab studies or mentor the Scholar and/or his or her students or associates
- Visits of Scholar to AMS Volunteer’s home institution to give lectures or seminars, work on data processing, running models or help with lab studies;
- Participation by the Volunteer in the Scholar’s field projects. Also possible is that the Scholar would participate in Volunteer’s projects
- Volunteer assists Scholar with writing research proposals, technical or scientific papers for peer reviewed journals, class studies or preparing material for oral or poster presentations at conferences or for seminars
- Volunteer helps Scholar to install, run and interpret models like WRF, WRF-Chem
- Volunteer advises Scholar on selection and/or proper installation and operation of scientific equipment.
- Volunteer helps with accessing, downloading and processing information such as from satellite and radar databases
- Volunteer collaborates with Scholar on a research study.

○ Inappropriate collaborations undertaken through the Program

- The AMS International Academic Volunteer Program cannot be used to establish collaborations undertaken on a contractual or cost-reimbursement basis. Should such an opportunity arise, it would be undertaken outside of the Program.
- The Program cannot be involved in any activities of political activism or religious activity.

- The Program is not to be used to create collaborations that support the mission of for-profit and other commercial entities.

○ **Criteria and guidelines for collaborations**

- Scholars must be employed by an academic or other not-for-profit institution; however, unaffiliated or independent International Scholars may also apply.
- Scholars must have the consent of their employers to participate in the proposed collaboration (a confirming letter will be required); unaffiliated International Scholars must provide a letter of support from a recognized scholar at an academic or non-governmental, not-for-profit institution.
- Preferably, the Scholar should have at least a master's degree or an equivalent level of experience in an engineering, science or social science profession.
- Preferably, Scholars should have some proficiency reading/speaking/writing English; volunteers may also be sought who have language skills in the scholar's native tongue. Note, foreign graduate students at US institutes who are AMS members may be volunteers.
- Scholars are expected to have adequate funds to support their own participation, as well as travel and other support for a visiting Volunteer unless the Scholar and the Volunteer (and their organizations) otherwise agree to a different arrangement.
- Scholars should provide a statement of interest and a brief CV, which includes sufficient relevant information for matching with a Volunteer's expertise.
- Scholars should specify any scheduling constraints.
- Confidentiality and intellectual property rights are to be determined jointly by the Scholar and the Volunteer (and their respective institutions) prior to the outset of the collaboration.
- Scholars and Volunteers must agree to abide by the AMS Code of Conduct (<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/ams-organization-and-administration/ams-code-of-conduct/>).

Table 1.1 outlines the elements of the International Scholars' application.

Table 1.1
Elements of the International Scholar's Application Template
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Name- Citizenship- Affiliation and Title/Position- Academic Degrees- Relevant experience equivalent to an academic degree- Scientific and professional society memberships- Brief (<250 words) summary of the proposed collaboration- Identify and rank the skills required in undertaking the collaboration- Schedule of the collaboration- Location of the collaboration- Mode(s) of the collaboration (e.g., in-person, remote)- Language Proficiency of the Applicant- Experience working in or collaborating with scientists in US or other countries- Contact information for previous collaborators- Optional: List names, affiliations and contact Information for any AMS members with whom the Scholar wishes to collaborate- Is the Scholar's institution able to provide financial support to the Volunteer for travel and/or other incidental expense; if yes, please describe- Attach a letter from the Scholar's employer supporting the collaboration request- Provide the names, titles and contact information for three or more references- Provide a curriculum vitae

2. Identifying AMS Member-Volunteers

The Program seeks to engage AMS members who wish to serve as Volunteers in the Program for the purpose of collaborating or advising on a *pro bono* basis with International Scholars. Volunteers in the Program are limited exclusively to AMS members in good standing.

The following sections describe how Volunteers are recruited, together with some practical considerations. .

Practical considerations

- **Available resources.** The Volunteer enrollment form include inputs concerning possible needs for resources for a visit to the international Scholar (e.g., Volunteer's airfare) or for a visit from the international Scholar (e.g., desk space, administrative support, library facilities, CPU). The template should clearly indicate that financial resources generally cannot be provided by the AMS to facilitate collaborations.
- **Ethical considerations:** All Volunteers (and International Scholars) need to review and commit to the AMS Code of Conduct (<https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/ams/about-ams/ams-organization-and-administration/ams-code-of-conduct/>).
- **Special issues** related to insurance, confidentiality, copyrights (for codes, course notes, etc.) as well as potential intellectual property (IP) issues generated by the effort, will be addressed by the Volunteer and the Scholar and their respective institutions after a successful match has been made.
- **Authenticity:** The AMS umbrella provides authenticity and credibility to the entire effort.

Table 2.1 lists the major elements of the AMS Member-Volunteer enrollment form.

Table 2.1
Elements of AMS Volunteer Enrollment Form

Volunteer profile
Name
Citizenship
Affiliation and Title/Position
Academic degrees
CV (2-3 pages, see examples)
Extended CV or biography
Areas and levels of expertise for each subject area (e.g., number of years or depth of expertise, such as cursory, moderate, detailed)
Type of expertise (e.g., applied, theoretical, modeling, etc.)
Availability
Preferred methods) of collaboration
Oral language proficiencies
Experience working and/or collaborating with scholars in other countries (for each)
Financial support, if required, for travel and/or other incidental expenses

3. Scholar-Volunteer Matching Process

The AMS International Academic Volunteer Program seeks to match atmospheric, hydrologic, social and related scientists and engineers (the “Scholars”) residing and working in countries abroad with AMS member-volunteers (the “Volunteers”) who have requisite skills and experience. The Volunteer-Scholar matching process is based on the premise that a need exists to more strategically and systematically connect the community of scientists across the globe, especially to benefit young scholars who do not yet have the opportunity to build a research network. Scholars’ requests may involve professional development by or collaboration with the Volunteer. The following sections describe the range of collaboration options and the matching process that will be used in the Program.

Possible Types of Interactions Among International Scholars and Volunteers:

- Online only: Scholar seeks a Volunteer for online discussions for one-time or more frequent interactions regarding a paper, lecture, research focus or project
- Visit by a Volunteer to a foreign Scholar

- Hosting a Scholar at a Volunteer's group or lab
- More broadly, not just to individual scholars, but to research teams or educational classes, so the Volunteer can advise a Scholar and her/his students or a professor and his/her class, and deliver remote talks and discussion sections to multiple people and not just to individual Scholars

Considerations in Developing the Approach for Matching Scholars and Volunteers:

- Access to the Volunteer database?
The Volunteer database is searchable only by the Matching Coordinator and/or an Associate Matching Coordinators (for example, a need may develop for Associate Matching Coordinators to deal with increasing numbers of Scholars and a wide array of topical areas). Neither Scholars, AMS members nor the general public have open access to the Volunteer database.
- What is the mechanism for Scholars to know the profiles of potential Volunteers (i.e., those in the Volunteer Database)?
Scholars only have access to the database entries of the best-matched (and interested) Volunteer selected by the Matching Coordinator. Typically, the Matching Coordinator would identify a small number of Volunteers that best match the needs of the requesting Scholar. Should the best-matched Volunteer not be interested or available, the Matching Coordinator would work with the next-best-matched Volunteer until a match is consummated or is not possible.
- How will the matching process be accomplished?
In facilitating a match, the Matching Coordinator will rely both on an automated search of the Volunteer database and on the personal knowledge of the Matching Coordinator and others s/he might draw on for qualitative input and guidance.
- Who makes the final decision on which Volunteer(s) best fit the Scholar's request?
The final decision will be made jointly by the Scholar and the Volunteer.
- Will there be open access to a list of Scholars and their matching Volunteers?
Neither Volunteers, AMS members nor the general public would have open access to the Scholars database; however, the list of all Scholars and their matched Volunteers would be openly available to all AMS members along with high-level information on both the Scholars and Volunteers, such as affiliation, timing and nature of the collaboration.
- How will confidentiality be ensured where necessary (for example, in certain mentoring or competitive situations)?
Confidentiality arrangements are the joint responsibility of the Scholar and the Volunteer.
- Financial support?

Financial support, if needed, is the responsibility of the Scholar, the Volunteer or both. The AMS is generally not able to provide financial support to either party.

- Language matching.

While the matching process seeks to ensure an appropriate language match exists, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Scholar and the Volunteer to reach a suitable solution.

The Matching Process

1. Scholar completes application for Volunteer support and enters it into the Scholar database. The application form that the Scholar completes automatically assesses whether all required information has been entered. The “completed” application form is then automatically sent to the Matching Coordinator.
2. The Matching Coordinator reviews the application to ensure that the request (i.e., section of the application where the Scholar describes the nature of the Scholar-Volunteer collaboration) is appropriate and adequately described; if so, then the application is considered approved. If the request is not appropriate within the scope of the Program, the application will be returned. If the request is only inadequately described, the Scholar is requested to update and improve the description of the request.
3. The keywords in an approved application are then searched within the Volunteer database to determine the extent to which any Volunteer profiles match the Scholar’s request.
4. The selected Volunteer reviews the application and informs the Matching Coordinator if s/he wishes to engage with the Scholar with the intent of arranging a collaboration. If the first-ranked Volunteer declines to proceed, then the Matching Coordinator sends the application to the Volunteer with the second-best match and so on until an interested and qualified Volunteer is identified. If no interested and qualified Volunteer is identified, the Scholar is informed that a match is not possible.
5. When an ‘interested’ Volunteer is identified, the Volunteer’s profile and contact information are provided to the Scholar, and the Scholar and Volunteer coordinate on finalizing a collaboration. If finalized, the Matching Coordinator is so informed.
6. Should the Scholar and Volunteer not be able to finalize a viable collaboration agreement, then the Matching Coordinator sends the application to the next-best-matching Volunteer.
7. If a match cannot be arranged following several attempts, the Scholar is informed that the matching process was unsuccessful and the application is closed.
8. In some cases, the Matching Coordinator at his/her discretion may seek to reach out to a member of an AMS Committee (e.g., a STAC Committee) to explore if an interested and qualified AMS member can be identified.

4. Other Issues

- **Ethics**
The International Scholar/institution, the AMS member-volunteer and all affiliated individuals directly involved in the collaboration (the Parties) must comport themselves according to the AMS Code of Conduct (see Annex 4.1).
- **Financials**
It is expected that in most cases the AMS member-volunteer will provide his/her time on a *pro bono* basis. Support of out-of-pocket expenses (e.g., travel) incurred by the AMS member-volunteer are anticipated to be covered by the International Scholar/institution, but may be supported under any arrangement agreeable to the Parties. In some cases, the international host institution may elect to provide the AMS member-volunteer with an honorarium.
- **Tax implications**
Federal, state or local tax implications (e.g., deductions and credits) are solely the responsibility of the AMS member-volunteer. Similarly, any tax implications pertaining to the academic scholar/institution are solely their responsibility.
- **Legal**
Any and all legal disputes that may arise as a consequence of the collaboration are solely the responsibility of the Parties. The Parties agree that the American Meteorological Society incurs no liability for any such disputes and any subsequent legal actions.
- **Assessing the value of the collaboration**
On conclusion of the collaboration, each of the Parties will independently have the opportunity to provide to the AMS International Academic Volunteer Committee a brief assessment of the value of the collaboration and the utility of the matching process.
- **Recognizing and learning from unintended consequences**
The AMS International Academic Volunteer Committee will regularly review feedback received from International Scholars/institutions, AMS member-volunteers and others to gauge the success of the Program and to identify provisions of the Program that need to be added, deleted, modified or otherwise strengthened or clarified. An AMS Community page will be established for this purpose, while confidential input will be provided directly to the Chair of the Committee.

Annex 4.1

AMS Code of Conduct²

This Code of Conduct applies to individual members and institutional members. Only individuals who intend to abide by this Code of Conduct should seek admission or continuing membership in the Society. This Code of Conduct is applicable in all professional settings including but not limited to office, classroom, laboratory, and field research sites; AMS events; social gatherings associated with professional activities; and travel to and from these events. This Code of Conduct is modeled after that published by the National Academy of Sciences¹.

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General Conduct

1. Members shall carry out their activities with integrity and the highest ethical standards.
2. Members must treat all individuals with respect. Members must refrain from all forms of discrimination², harassment³, and bullying⁴ in their professional encounters.
3. In addition to their own professional conduct, Members who either witness or are made aware of discrimination, harassment, or bullying by others should actively seek to prevent, report, and/or otherwise mitigate the offensive behavior.
4. Members shall not use or display the official seal of the American Meteorological Society, the Radio Seal of Approval, the Television Seal of Approval, or the designation of Certified Consulting Meteorologist or Certified Broadcast Meteorologist unless duly authorized by the Society.
5. Members are expected to adhere to their employer's code of conduct or ethics.

Research Conduct

1. Members shall not commit scientific misconduct, defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism. Scientific error or incorrect interpretation of research data that may occur as

² Approved by the AMS Council, 27 September 2019

part of the scientific process does not constitute scientific misconduct.

2. Members shall disclose all relevant relationships, financial or otherwise, that might be perceived to unduly influence the outcome of their research.
3. Members shall avoid all detrimental research practices that are clear violations of the fundamental tenets of research⁵. Members shall be fair and objective peer reviewers, maintaining confidentiality when requested; promptly move to correct the literature when errors in their own work are detected; include all deserving authors in publications, and give appropriate credit to prior work in citations⁶.

Members recognize the responsibility of the Society to consider breaches of this Code of Conduct and to recommend appropriate responses. Allegations of violations by a Member should be addressed to the AMS Executive Director immediately and followed up in writing. If for any reason the Executive Director is viewed as having a conflict of interest that would raise questions regarding his or her ability to serve as an impartial arbiter, then the Secretary-Treasurer will receive the complaint.

¹ <http://www.nasonline.org/about-nas/code-of-conduct/nas-code-of-conduct.pdf>.

² Discrimination is defined as prejudicial treatment of individuals or groups of people based on their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws.

³ Harassment includes any verbal or physical conduct directed at individuals or groups of people because of their race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable laws, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Sexual harassment is of particular concern and is marked by unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment.

⁴ Bullying is unwelcome, aggressive behavior involving the use of influence, threat, intimidation, or coercion to dominate others in the professional environment.

⁵ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, “[Fostering Integrity in Research](#),” pp 73-74, 81, National Academies Press, 2017.

⁶ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, “[Fostering Integrity in Research](#),” pp 70-90, National Academies Press, 2017.

Annex 4.2

AMS International Academic Volunteer Committee

Members (December 2021)

Baumgardner, D., Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and Droplet Measurement Technologies
Bornstein, R., San Jose State University (Emeritus)
Carmichael, G., University of Iowa
Clark, R., Millersville University, PA
Collett, J., Colorado State University
Dabberdt, W., Vaisala (ret.) and NCAR (Emeritus); Committee Chair
Fernando, H., University of Notre Dame
Foufoula-Georgiou, E., University of California, Irvine
Niyogi, D., University of Texas at Austin
Ramamurthy, M., UNIDATA UCAR
Robock, A., Rutgers University
Hartfield, G., NOAA/NWSe; Ex Officio Committee Member
Winkler, J.A., Michigan State University
Callahan, E., AMS Staff