



YSAP seeks to develop new research collaborations between nations that have historically had minimal contact. YSAP does so by providing seed funding to GYA members for conducting research “missions”. These missions are typically short-term exchanges (a week, month, or less) between a GYA member (or members) and collaborators in different nations that establishes a foundation for a more extensive research activity. For example, YSAP funding enabled Sasha Kagansky from Edinburgh University in Scotland and Vidushi Neergheen-Bhujun from University of Mauritius in Mauritius to establish a biomedical collaboration on the natural products of endemic plants in Mauritius. Similarly, YSAP funding enabled Thomas Edison dela Cruz from the Philippines to visit researchers in Serbia to develop a collaboration on the biodiversity of fungi and to help plan a new National Young Academy in Serbia. During these exchanges, researchers typically create outreach activities for the local community to highlight the emerging collaboration between nations, create a favorable, cultural exchange, and provide the chance for students, teachers, and other community members to interact with researchers. The goal of these outreach activities are to breakdown barriers between scientists and the general public, provide a forum to showcase the exciting international collaborative science underway, and inform the role the GYA plays for early-stage career researchers around the world. **In effect, awardees become ambassadors for science while conducting a new research activity between nations.**

YSAP is not a primary project of the GYA and therefore cannot provide the amount of funding needed for a full-scale research project. The intention is to provide seed money to help a collaboration grow and thrive. Having seed money and demonstrating funding through a competitive review process is a strength for larger grant applications. Several past YSAP missions have provided the initial step and preliminary data for submitting more substantial competitive international grant proposals.

### Submitting a Successful Mission Proposal

The YSAP advisory board reviews proposals and recommends the best missions for funding. To ensure that your application has the best chance of success, consider the following criteria:

**Propose a project that covers the scope of YSAP.** Proposals must connect at least two countries that historically have had minimal scientific contact or are at different stages of scientific development through a scientific or research objective. The exchanges are designed to build capacity in both nations and be reciprocally beneficially. In doing so, the GYA fosters collaboration through science and/or research and breaks down barriers between countries. There is no preference for research discipline. All members of the GYA that seek to build international collaborations are encouraged to apply.

**Demonstrate impact on society and GYA.** The research exchange should provide direct and immediate benefits to the research objectives, environment, policy, community, students and/or other outreach activities that will project a positive light of YSAP, GYA, and science in general. Funded GYA members serve as “Ambassadors” for science and the GYA. The main goal of YSAP is to create research collaborations; science education and outreach activities to schoolchildren are a major plus but not the main objective of YSAP. The “Young” in YSAP describes an early staged career investigator, not children or young students per se.

**The suitability of the candidate.** The submitter of the proposal must be a GYA member, but collaborators in the country (or countries) where the proposed research exchange would occur do not need to be a GYA member. The candidate’s CV will be evaluated to determine how the proposed research fits with the research program. Previous experience in conducting scientific outreach activities is a plus but not necessary to a successful proposal.

Proposals submitted that request funds for return trips home, funds to solely attend professional scientific meetings, funds to give a talk at an invited symposium, funds for research activities within a single country, or requests for funds that do not match the objectives of YSAP, will not be funded.

For inquiries about YSAP mission proposals, comments, questions, or more information please do not hesitate to contact John Malone ([john.malone@uconn.edu](mailto:john.malone@uconn.edu))