

Call for 2020 Virtual YSAP Missions

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1. Contacts

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2. Who is eligible to apply?

All GYA members, irrespective of whether they are a member of the YSAP working group.
Two GYA members, one from a developing country, the other from a developed country, can apply for a mission.

Missions are *non-traditional*; that is, interactions occur between two countries that are at different stages of scientific development, or between two countries that historically have had minimal scientific contact. GYA members travel between developed and developing countries, transferring expertise and knowledge and otherwise increasing engagement between nations of different scientific development.

Reasoning to propose electronic missions

We believe that the YSAP should not stay with arms crossed, and despite the travel restrictions most of our members face due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is an opportunity to stay active and keep the GYA members active. In fact, with a possibly reduced budget for virtual missions, we may support more such efforts.

3. What is the issue you want to address with the YSAP virtual missions?

We want to introduce an alternative to the traditional YSAP missions that should require very little funding, but can lead to significant positive outcomes. Instead of a GYA member traveling to another member's location, we propose to have the closest possible to a "mission" without the actual movement of people. For this, we propose two alternatives:

1. Basic mission (virtual)
2. Activity/experiment mission (virtual)

4. How does it work?

1. Basic mission

This will basically be a lecture/tutorial planned between two GYA members, that will be around the expertise of the "outgoing" member (e-traveling) and "receiving". The topic and the assessment of the expected impact or results is left to the two parts, "outgoing" and "receiving".

2. Activity/experiment mission

This mission type has the same basis as the Basic mission, but with the addition of a "practical" activity. This activity can be (not limited to):

- Giving a tutorial or practicum, where an actual experiment is performed with the supervision of the “outgoing” member. See example further down.
- Performing field work with the guidance of outgoing and receiving ends.
- The mission does not necessarily need to be performed in “one day”. This can help accommodate more interactions and grow a stronger relationship between GYA members.
- It is encouraged to involve non-GYA people on location, e.g. staff or team members of the GYA member who is the host, or other groups of people

We believe that, based on the experiences made with the virtual missions, this mission modality can remain, even after lockdowns and travel restrictions are lifted.

There are several advantages:

1. More missions can be accommodated with limited budget (shipping costs, small consumables for lab work, simple catering, etc.)
2. One mission can be “replicated” by other pairs
3. Members with family obligations, or super-busy agendas can have a better chance to participate (avoiding long travels, visa procedures, etc.).

5. Is there a more concrete example?

Yes!

David and Chandra are planning to organise the following mission:

- David will send materials to prepare an experiment in Chandra’s institution.
- David will give a “zoom-lecture” with a broad character that can match as much of the interests in Chandra’s institution (including entrepreneurship and academic activities in balance).
- As a bonding experience, there will be a “lunch” or break in which both parts take a break, have more informal communication, e.g. pizza ordered at both locations.
- A “real-time”, “zoom-experiment” will then be performed (not necessarily on the same day).
- Etc. ...
- A Mission Report, and any potential outcome will be produced, in the same way as it has been done previously for all the YSAP missions.

6. Budget

Most suggested online interactions will not need extra funds. However, up to 300 Euros can be available for each mission. Funds will be allocated based on a draft mission budget provided by the applicants. Funds can be used for, e.g., video chat infrastructure, joint pizza, sending materials for experiments, etc.

7. How to apply

To propose a Virtual YSAP mission, two GYA members (one from a developing country, one from a developed country) should submit their proposal, detailing their proposed mission (up to 2 pages). A draft budget must be included if YSAP funds will be needed to run the mission. Deadline for submitting your proposal is **10 September 2020**.

Proposal should be submitted to the YSAP co-leads, David (d.fernandezrivas@utwente.nl) and Chandra (chans2k2@gmail.com) via email.

The Proposals will then be reviewed by an internal YSAP committee composed of five YSAP members, including alumni, who will not submit a mission proposal themselves.

The committee will elaborate on the ranking rules, and will communicate a decision to the applicants.