



IABC Foundation

Gift of Excellence Grant for CMP/SCMP Certification



International Association
of Business Communicators
Foundation

IABC FOUNDATION - GIFT OF EXCELLENCE GRANT FOR CMP/SCMP CERTIFICATION

Dear Applicant,

Congratulations on your commitment to excellence in your work and proving your expertise. Because you are reading this, we know that you are dedicated to advancing excellence in ethical, standards-based communication practice in your work and organization. The IABC Foundation commends you for your commitment and seeks to help you on your journey. We believe that communication is a force for good in business and society. By supporting IABC members on their journey to elevated professional practice through certification, we hope to help you take your work and career to the next level, driving business results that move communication forward as a force for good.

We are thrilled to launch the 2018/2019 Gift of Excellence Grants to fund certification fees for certain IABC members through the Global Communication Certification Council (GCCC) certification programs. The Communication Management Professional (CMP) and the Strategic Communication Management Professional (SCMP) certification programs serve as a career differentiator and aim to drive the communication profession forward. The IABC Foundation is particularly interested in helping to expand availability of the program to IABC members globally, where currency discrepancies or developing economies may make it financially difficult for members to take part in the program. IABC members living and working in areas designated as developing nations by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, as well as those living in areas significantly impacted by a natural disaster, will receive highest priority in the disbursement of the Gift of Excellence grant funds. However, all applicants demonstrating financial need will be considered.

This packet contains information critical to your application, including:

- About the IABC Foundation and the Gift of Excellence
- Funding, criteria, and eligibility requirements
- Application process and timeline

Please study the packet carefully and reach out if you have questions: foundation@iabc.com. Again, congratulations on your commitment to excellence in your career. We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Doute, CAE
IABC Executive Director

ABOUT THE IABC FOUNDATION

The IABC Foundation is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization that funds and supports strategic initiatives designed to drive forward communication as a force for good in business and society.

The IABC Foundation supports communicators at all levels and phases of their careers, through 4 pillars of focus which we call Gifts. Our work on the four Gifts ensures that we help keep the communication profession relevant, vibrant and moving forward through leadership, resources and philanthropy.

For further information, please visit www.iabc.com/foundation.

THE GIFT OF EXCELLENCE

The purpose of this grant program is to support IABC members seeking to improve their career trajectory, advance excellence in professional practice and gain certification through the [Global Communication Certification Council \(GCCC\)](#).

The Gift of Excellence funds a limited number of eligible IABC members to apply and sit for the Global Communication Certification Council's CMP or SCMP exam to attain certification. Applicants must meet all GCCC application and exam requirements, and receipt of a grant through this program does not guarantee an individual will qualify or pass the exam. All such determinations are made directly by the GCCC in their standard exam application and exam administration processes. This grant program is designed only to provide funding support.



Why Certification Matters

Ethics. Consistency. Context. Analysis. Strategy. GCCC certification provides an internationally recognized standard of communication excellence based on a global understanding of key principles and job competencies worldwide. Being certified gives professionals the ability to demonstrate their knowledge and expertise and provide evidence of their outstanding abilities. It is a pathway that not only elevates an individual's career, but also to ensure the continual advancement and positive impact of the communication profession.

Available Certifications

Communication Management Professional (CMP) — For generalist, specialist and other business communicators established in their careers as managers and looking to demonstrate their competence.

Strategic Communication Management Professional (SCMP) — For highly skilled business communicators practiced in providing strategic communication advice and counseling to an organization's leadership.

For more information on GCCC Certifications, visit www.gcccouncil.org. In addition, applicants should review the certification exam resources page: <http://gcccouncil.org/certification-exam-study-resources/>.

ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES

The IABC Foundation Gift of Excellence program is offering \$3,000 USD in total funding to provide five (5) grants for GCCC certification. Each grant totals \$600 USD and is inclusive of the application fee (\$100 USD), the exam fee (\$400 USD), and the year one maintenance/renewal fee (\$100 USD). Grants will only be awarded to eligible applicants and all eligible applicants are encouraged to apply.

Grant applicants are selected through a peer-based evaluation by the IABC Foundation Grant Selection Task Force.

Criteria

In order to be considered for a Gift of Excellence grant, applicants must:

- Be an IABC member in good standing
- Have a clear demonstrated need
 - Reside in low/low-medium income countries as defined by the World Bank & International Monetary Fund
 - Reside in disaster-stricken areas in the last 12 months or
 - Demonstrate other documented financial need
- Satisfactorily answer all application questions, demonstrating a personal commitment to certification and ethical, professional practice.
- Have not received previous grant funding from the IABC Foundation within the last two years
- Submit an application by December 17, 2018

Recipients agree to submit their GCCC application and take the certification exam within 12-months of the date your grant funding is confirmed or grant funding will be withdrawn. Foundation staff will consider extenuating circumstances on a case by case basis and must be notified prior to the one-year deadline of your funding confirmation.

Additional:

1. Recipients of the grant are required to submit follow-up:
 - Questionnaire upon passed or failed certification exam
 - Follow-up report to the IABC Foundation six months following certification exam including:
 - Whether certification was achieved
 - Length of time to complete the certification process
 - How certification has affected your career
 - Feedback on the Gift of Excellence grant and certification process
2. Grant funds are awarded directly from the IABC Foundation to the Global Communication Certification Council for awardees. You will not receive a cash disbursement.
3. Certification candidates, including grant awardees, who fail the exam have an opportunity to re-take the exam within two years for \$100 USD. Grantees who do not pass the test may apply the funds intended for the first-year maintenance fee to the

exam re-take. This will exhaust all grant funds and no further funds will be awarded for the annual maintenance fee.

Recipients understand that IABC Foundation grant funding does not guarantee certification and that the IABC Foundation has no influence on certification results.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

IABC members are invited to apply using the following online grant [application form](https://iabcfoundationgoe.secure-platform.com:443/a) (link: <https://iabcfoundationgoe.secure-platform.com:443/a>). At the time of completing the online form, you will be asked to provide your resume or curriculum vitae, answer a series of questions, and provide contact information for one professional reference.

A few questions to expect within the application:

Please explain why you are seeking certification.

What impact do you anticipate this certification will have on your career?

Please explain your financial need for this certification.

Have you previously attempted certification?

How have you prepared for the certification exam?

Timeline

Open Application	September 17, 2018
Closing date for applications	December 17, 2018
Application review, referencing & scoring	December 2018
Foundation Grant Task Force selection meeting	January 2019
Final appointment and approval by full board	February 2019
Outreach to all applicants	February 2019
Follow-up reports	June 2020*

Any further questions about how to apply, please reach out to foundation@iabc.com.