



**THE LEE SCHIPPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

**ACTION:** Program guidance.

**DATES:**

Expressions of Interest (EOI): EOIs are due no later than **April 4, 2022**. The Board encourages earlier submission of EOIs. A shortlist of up to approximately seven (7) EOIs for the global and seven (7) for the African call will be invited to submit a full application.

Applications: Applicants whose EOIs have been selected will be given a period of three weeks to prepare and submit a full application.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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**SECTION 1: SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**1.1 Scholarship Goals**

The Schipper Family and EMBARQ, the sustainable urban mobility initiative of WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, in cooperation with leading scholars and policymakers, spearheaded the creation of a Scholarship in memory of Leon J. Schipper (“Lee” or “Mr. Meter”).

The “Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship for Sustainable Transport” supports the momentum of Lee Schipper’s contribution to the enrichment of the international policy dialogue in the fields of sustainable transport and energy efficiency. Lee Schipper, an international physicist, researcher, musician, and co-founder of EMBARQ, inspired and shaped the thinking of a generation of students and professionals and was widely recognized for enriching policy dialogue with his passion for data and challenging conventional wisdom.



The Scholarship is aimed at expanding the contributions to research and policy dialogue in the field of sustainable transport and energy efficiency. In memory of Lee’s work, the Scholarship will support initiatives triggering and catalyzing transformative research and policy papers. The Scholarship places special emphasis on “iconoclastic” contributions (challenging conventional wisdom) that have clear, transformative outputs and contribute to measurable changes. The scholarship will support proposals that span different stages nurturing policy dialogue including

- Data collection and data quality
- Diagnosis through data analysis (qualitative and quantitative)
- Policy analysis and evaluation
- Interdisciplinary and international comparative analysis

The Scholarship is aimed at supporting young individual researchers and students in their pursuit of the enrichment of policy dialogue consistent with Lee Schipper’s contributions.

The Scholarship will award two categories of scholarships -- Global and African. The Global Scholarship will award up to two exemplary candidates a maximum of \$10,000 each to advance transformative research in efficient and sustainable transport. In addition, for the third time, a second scholarship will be dedicated to supporting one young researcher from the African continent.

The Scholarship is governed by an Advisory Board of selected experts in the field and will be managed under the umbrella of the World Resources Institute Foundation. The scholarships will be awarded through a transparent process with strong governance procedures.

## **1.2 Selection Process and Priorities**

### 1.2.1 Expressions of Interest (EOI)

The application process begins with an EOI. The EOI is a simple form intended to give the Board an early assessment of the topic proposed and applicant background and affiliation. It also allows the Board and prospective potential applicants to start a collaborative process for ensuring early Scholarship success. EOIs should be submitted as early as possible, but no later than **April 4, 2022**. The Board considers the EOIs to be an essential component of the application submission and decision-making processes. The Board will work with pre-applicants if necessary, during the period prior to the EOI deadline to ensure eligibility and appropriateness of application, if applicable. Once an EOI is received, it will proceed through a two-step process:



- Screening for completeness and eligibility (both applicant and research proposal eligibility);
- Selection of shortlisted EOIs

It is expected that up to approximately seven (7) EOIs will be shortlisted and asked to submit a full application for each of the two calls (Global and African). EOIs will be shortlisted based on broad criteria that will include its consistency with Lee Schipper's contributions, the merits of the research topic, applicant merits, and the prospective applicant's probability of success. The submissions for the African call will be also part of the global call so that African applicants will be considered for either scholarship.

### 1.2.2 Application Screening

Applicants whose EOIs have been selected will be given a period of three to four weeks to prepare and submit a full application. To give prospective applicants adequate time to complete their applications (while incorporating any guidance clarifications or revisions), the Board reserves the right to adjust application dates. Once an application is received, it will proceed through a three-step process:

- Screening for completeness and eligibility (both applicant and research topic eligibility, and to ensure that the application provides complete and sufficient information for the evaluation process);
- Evaluation panel review process, applying “evaluation criteria;” and
- Final review and selection, applying “selection criteria.”

### 1.2.3 Application Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be individually reviewed and assessed against three (3) evaluation criteria – organized into several sub-criteria each – as detailed below. For each of the applicable criteria, the application will be assigned a rating of between zero and five points, based on the application's fulfillment of the objectives of each criterion. These individual criterion ratings will then be accounted for according to the priority of criteria (weight), to arrive at an overall rating for the application.

The Board will require a rigorous analysis of the applications. Applicants must provide the requested information with the best possible clarity and conciseness in order to ensure adequate assessment of applicants' merits.

#### **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Evaluation Criteria	Factors
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1. Topic merits towards a transformational outcome in sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creation of innovative, transformational outcome (“real outcome”)</li> <li>▪ Consistency with Lee Schipper’s Contributions (quality data collection and sound methodology; Diagnosis through data analysis (qualitative and quantitative); Policy analysis and evaluation; Interdisciplinary and international comparative analysis) as means to a transformational outcome</li> <li>▪ Alignment with sustainable transport</li> </ul>
2. Applicant merits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Affiliation</li> <li>▪ Academic background</li> <li>▪ Research background (previous contributions)</li> <li>▪ References</li> </ul>
3. Application feasibility merits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Realistic and feasible scope, schedule of activities and budget</li> <li>▪ Readiness of project to be commenced</li> <li>▪ Likelihood of research topic’s anticipated merits</li> </ul>

#### 1.2.4. Application Selection Criteria

These criteria will be applied to select the final candidate. Once the full applications are evaluated against their merits based on the evaluation criteria above, the Board will select a final application based on selection criteria (one of them being the score out of the evaluation criteria). The applications will collectively be reviewed by the Board to ensure consistency and to balance projects against the Scholarship priorities and schedule. The table below summarizes these additional selection criteria.

#### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

<b>Selection Criteria</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Merits associated with the evaluation criteria</li> <li>2. Geographical diversity and equity of applicant and application</li> <li>3. Likelihood of Scholarship Award success</li> <li>4. Visibility of the Scholarship Award outcome</li> </ol>

#### 1.2.5. Additional Application Selection Criteria for Africa Call

The African scholarship is solely aimed at supporting a young researcher from the African continent who is currently living and working in Africa. In addition to the global selection criteria above, the following specific criteria will be applied.

<b>Selection Criteria (African Scholar)</b>
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1. Applicant currently has citizenship of an African country
2. Applicant currently lives and works in Africa
3. Applicant is associated with an African-based institution (or an African branch of an international institution)

## SECTION 2: AWARD INFORMATION

### **2.1 General Award Information and Anticipated Award Amount**

The Board anticipates making an award of up to US\$10,000 to each scholar. The Board is choosing to award through this solicitation an amount that will allow for potential future rounds of solicitations and awards, which occur after 2022. There is no predetermined allocation between this and any future solicitations; all such distributions will cumulatively reflect the nature and timing of the selected applications and the available endowment for the Scholarship Program.

## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Applications will be required to meet minimum requirements in terms of applicant eligibility and research project eligibility.

To the extent that an application's substance exceeds the minimum eligibility requirements described below, such qualifications will be considered.

### **3.1 Eligible Applicant Types**

Eligibility for the Scholarship Program is dependent on the applicant and application requirements.

Applicants are eligible if they are young individual researchers. For the purposes of this Scholarship, a young individual researcher is a researcher that has five or fewer years of experience since his or her last academic degree (Masters or Ph.D.) and is not older than 35 years at the time of submission of the EOI<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The eligibility periods can be extended in case of specific and properly documented circumstances such as maternity or paternity leave. In case of maternity/paternity, the applicant may request up to 18 months extension for each child born. The Scholarship Committee will assess the eligibility period on the basis of evidence provided at the time of expression of interest submission.





The applicant must be a young individual researcher affiliated with an academic institution or with a research institution (public, private, or not-for-profit).

- Researchers affiliated with academic institutions will be Masters or Ph.D. students at the time of submission of the EOI
- Researchers affiliated with research institutions will need to demonstrate that the research institution has been a legal entity for one year at the time of the EOI, and that the research institution has a track record of published, peer-reviewed publications.

For the African scholarship, see additional criteria under 1.2.5.

### **3.2 Cost Sharing and Matching**

The Scholarship share of the costs will be a lump sum for up to 100 percent of the costs for the proposed research project, but no more than US\$10,000.

### **3.3 Eligible Projects**

EOIs and Applications must be for eligible research projects. These include the following requirements:

- Topic must be related to Sustainable Transport.
- The topic(s) must be consistent with Lee Schipper's main work areas in Sustainable Transport:
  - Data collection and quality,
  - Diagnosis through data analysis (qualitative and quantitative,)
  - Policy analysis and evaluation,
  - Interdisciplinary and international comparative analysis
- The research project has not been published or submitted to a journal
- The research project will be ideally completed by January 2023 – please indicate completion date if you are not able to comply with the date above

For the African scholarship, the research should take place in Africa.

### **3.4 Other Prerequisites**

In general, applications must meet the following additional prerequisites:

- Applications must be submitted in English;
- Applications must be complete;



- The research project must result in *independent utility*<sup>2</sup>.

## SECTION 4: APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 4.1 Applying Online

Based on the criteria above, the Scholarship Committee will set up a user-friendly online form.

### 4.2 Content and Form of Application

#### 4.2.1 Expression of Interest (EOI)

All prospective applicants must submit an EOI, which consists of the following components:

- **Research Project Description** – A brief overview of the project's main features, purpose, expected outcome, cost, and benefits from the research project; and
- **Applicant Eligibility** – Answers to questions regarding applicant background, affiliation, and experience to carry out their proposed research project.

For the African scholarship, please highlight the intention to apply for the African scholarship on the cover page and the application letter.

In an effort to focus prospective application efforts and remedy concerns, the Board may contact potential applicants if there are any questions that arise from the information submitted in an EOI, or if the information raises questions as to the eligibility of the proposed research project or applicant.

#### 4.2.2 Application Package Components

The application package for the Scholarship consists of specific application forms and supporting documentation. Applicants must complete all EOI package components as required in the section above; failure to do so may result in the application being removed from consideration for an award. Information should be submitted directly as electronic forms, and other information will be submitted as attachments to the application.

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<sup>2</sup> *Independent Utility* – A research project is considered to have independent utility if it will result, upon completion, in the creation of new or substantially improved research contributions on its own with no additional research necessary.



The components will consist of a 5 – 10-page proposal including the relevance of the work, the transformational character, the methodology, expected impact, timeframe, and costs in addition to the already provided information for the EOI.

4.2.3 Submission Dates and Times (estimated)

	<b>Research Projects</b>
<b>EOI submission</b>	April 4, 2022
<b>Finalists notified</b>	May 20, 2022
<b>Application submission</b>	June 10, 2022
<b>Announcement</b>	August 2022
<b>Envisaged research project completion</b>	No later than March 31, 2023

**SECTION 5: AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

**5.1 Award Notice**

Upon approval of an application, notification will be sent to the potential awardee recipient informing that the award is awaiting acceptance. Once the notice is received, the awardee will have approximately two weeks to formally confirm his or her interest. If the confirmation is not received, the Board will conclude that the awardee is no longer interested and will give the award opportunity to the next best-rated potential awardee in the list.

The Board will publicly announce selected awardees and funding.