# OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship

**Gothenburg, Sweden. 22-25 June 2020**

The next **International Mobility Conference** (IMC17) is taking place in **Gothenburg, Sweden** from **22-25** **June 2020** https://ips.gu.se/english/cooperation/conferences/imc17 . The Orientation and Mobility Association of Australasia (OMAA) is offering **two (2) scholarships**, each sufficient to cover the cost of **early-bird** **conference registration**. OMAA is looking to reward excellence and innovation in Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Specialists and Guide Dog Mobility Instructors (GDMI) who are submitting an abstract to IMC, perhaps for the first time.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must be an Ordinary Member of OMAA at the time of application and for the period including IMC17.

Applicants must have an abstract accepted by the IMC17 Committee.

Previous recipients of the OMAA-IMC Scholarship are not eligible to apply.

Members of the OMAA Executive are not eligible to apply.

**Selection Criteria**

The selection panel will be looking for applicants who have submitted an abstract to IMC17:

* for the first time, AND/OR
* showing innovative client work (i.e. case study), AND/OR
* demonstrating robust research design.

The OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship could assist O&M/GDMIs who might not otherwise be financially supported to attend IMC16.

**Process**

OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship applications should be emailed to professionaldevelopment@omaaustralasia.com and include the following details, either in the body of the email or as attachments:

* accepted abstract (oral presentation or poster), as submitted to IMC17
* abstract acceptance email received from the IMC17 Committee
* 300 words (maximum) saying what you hope to gain by attending IMC17, and how this will add value to the O&M/GDMI profession in Australia, Aotearoa/New Zealand or the South Pacific Islands;
* a brief biography (100 words maximum) to introduce yourself, outlining your O&M/GDMI experience and previous IMC presentation experience, if any; and
* indicate how you plan to fund the balance of the conference costs (i.e. self-funded, employer-funded or other).

**Selection Panel**

Applications will be assessed by a panel of four (4) members of the OMAA Council, who are not OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship Applicants. The panel will include the chair of the OMAA Professional Development Committee and three (3) OMAA Councillors who seek to represent the diversity of our members:

* residing in different regions of Australasia,
* employed by different organisations, and
* including at least one O&M specialist and one GDMI.

**Presentation**

All Applicants will be notified of the selection panel’s decision via email by Friday 28 February 2020.

The names of the two successful Applicants will be displayed on the OMAA website.

**Scholarship**

The two (2) OMAA-IMC17 Scholarships will be sufficient to cover the successful Applicant’s early-bird registration fee, fixed by the IMC17 conference committee. This scholarship does not cover transport or accommodation.

Registration payment will be arranged between the OMAA Treasurer and the successful Scholarship Applicants upon presentation of the award.

**Responsibilities of Successful Applicants**

Successful Applicants are:

* expected to behave in a manner befitting a representative of OMAA whilst at IMC17;
* required to write a brief report for the OMAA blog upon their return, outlining the highlights of the conference, their best learning and a photo; and
* if possible, present their paper again at the Australasian Orientation and Mobility online Symposium to be held on 22 September 2020.

**Important Dates**

Tuesday 11 February 2020: Notification of Abstract Acceptance from IMC17 Committee

Monday 17 February 2020: Deadline for the OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship Application

Friday 28 February 2020: Notification of OMAA-IMC17 Scholarship Application outcome

Tuesday 3 March 2020: IMC17 Early Bird Registration Closes

22-25 June 2020: IMC 17, Sweden