At-Risk and Refugee Scholar Membership Initiative

The Global Young Academy
The Global Young Academy (GYA) is a group of 200 early- and mid-career scholars from 70 countries who are competitively selected for five-year terms based on academic excellence and impact. The goals of the GYA are to support young scientists around the world, inform global science policy, build capacity, and serve society. The GYA is undertaking a new initiative to provide a pathway for at-risk and refugee scholars into our membership as well as to provide professional mentorship to these scholars.

Objectives of the GYA At-Risk and Refugee Scholar Membership Initiative

- Support exceptional early- or mid-career at-risk scholars in developing competitive membership applications to the GYA and/or National Young Academies in 2018
- Contribute to at-risk scholar re-integration into a scholarly work environment by supporting the development of research skills and connections relevant to their host countries (e.g., research funding structures, CV preparation advice, grant writing, regional professional opportunities)

The GYA is working with the below collaborating organizations to identify promising Ph.D. scholars in any research-based discipline, including the sciences, medicine, engineering, social sciences, and the arts and humanities, who are approximately 30-40 years old and are currently residing in a foreign country because of safety issues in his/her home country, or asylum/refugee status.

Collaborating organizations
The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the E.U. Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Alexander von Humboldt Philipp Schwartz Initiative, the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund, and the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA).

At-risk scholars selected to take part in the initiative will receive:

- A GYA peer “mentor” matched considering disciplinary expertise, geographic location, and scholar preferences
- GYA mentors commit to a minimum of one year of support to include but not limited to:
  - one 1-hour Skype call per month and more frequent correspondence by email with the scholar;
  - help discussing and developing a competitive GYA membership application, including providing a letter of recommendation;
  - access to their networks for career/education/professional development as appropriate
- Funding for selected at-risk scholars to attend the GYA Annual General Meeting 7 – 11 May 2018 in Pattaya, Thailand, as well as future annual meetings, is anticipated

Expected outcomes

- The successful selection of 3-4 at-risk scholars into GYA membership during the September 2018 call for new members (Please note that we cannot guarantee selection - this will be clearly communicated to all participants.)
- The seeding of at least 10 mutually beneficial mentoring relationships between GYA members and at-risk scholars, leading to increased professional network connections and opportunities for at-risk scholars

For more information
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