



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

AIIC Germany Young Interpreter Award 2018

Cologne, June 2nd 2018

AIIC Germany is delighted to announce its Young Interpreter Award 2017, the “AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis 2018”.

This annual prize gives concrete expression to the activities of the German Region of AIIC (Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence) with the aim of reaching out to both interpreting schools and trainee interpreters. As such, the purpose of the prize is to contribute to bridging the gap between trainee and recently qualified conference interpreters and the Association, with its extensive and varied activities within the world of professional conference interpretation.

It is AIIC’s desire to reach out in a constructive way to those entering the profession, and thus to promote the professional and ethical values and standards which are guarantors of excellence and ensure that conference interpretation continues to flourish in an ever-changing professional environment. It is also the desire of AIIC, through this prize programme, to foster an increasingly comprehensive and relevant match between what young graduates can offer the profession, and the demands of today’s interpreting markets at the conference interpreting level.

Description of the AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis

A prize fund has been established to award a grant of 700 euros, and an official certificate, to a conference interpretation student who graduated between April 2017 and August 2018 through professional examinations following:

- a one or two-year Master’s programme or
- a one or two-year postgraduate programme

The grant is to be used, at the discretion of the prizewinner and with the approval of AIIC, to fund further specialised language or professional training and networking within a calendar year of the award of the prize. The aims of the initiative are:

- to allow the chosen graduates to enhance their interpreting skills and/or to complete the match between their professional profiles and the expectations of the interpretation market.
- to narrow the (professional and perceived) gap between those trained interpreters who are beginning their professional lives, and AIIC, to the benefit of both parties.

To this end, the winner may apply the prize monies to funding: pre-candidacy in AIIC, networking and professional development, one or more professional development or language enhancement courses, subsistence expenses during an internship to enhance language, knowledge, or professional skills, or any other skill-oriented programme which the winner feels will improve his or her chances of succeeding as a professional conference interpreter.

In addition, AIIC Germany will provide the winner with a personal mentor, who will maintain regular tailor-made contact with the student during the year following the award in order to furnish guidance and provide professional and personal advice as the winner's career and chosen training options develop.

The "AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis" prizewinner will be invited to the traditional Nachwuchstreffen, a chance for students and recent graduates to meet AIIC members. Furthermore, during the AIIC Germany annual regional meeting which will be held in Stuttgart on November 17th 2018, there will be a formal award ceremony, and the prizewinner will be presented to the Region's members. AIIC Germany will cover the expenses (travel and hotel).

In addition, the "AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis" also includes a visit to the German Bundestag, the German Foreign Affairs Ministry, the European Patent Office and the European Parliament, where the prizewinner will have the opportunity to meet representatives from their language services and get an insight into the way they work and the specific linguistic requirements for those wishing to work for those organisations.

Procedure to be followed by German interpreting schools and students

Every German interpreting school is asked to propose one or two students as candidate(s) for the prize who have been awarded their conference interpreting degree/diploma/MA between April 2017 and August 2018. The candidates chosen may have any mother tongue, just so long as the above graduation criteria are respected.

A brief dossier on each of these candidates should be forwarded by the nominating school, by email to: Andrea Borges, AIIC Germany Junior Colleagues Development Officer, a.borges@aiic.net.

These dossiers should include: student's CV and personal details, grades and a letter explaining the choice of each nominee by the school according to the selection criteria below. In addition, schools are requested to require each proposed candidate to write a 700-word essay explaining:

- Why this prize would help him/her to jumpstart his or her professional career (and maybe what professional development initiative the prize money would be used for), or
- Why do I want to work as a conference interpreter, what is my motivation/inspiration?, or
- What will the profession of conference interpreter look like in 5, 10 or 20 years? or
- What do I know about AIIC? In my opinion, what does AIIC stand for?

The dossiers need not follow a specific format, but should be compiled according to the selection criteria below.

AIIC Germany will assess the candidacies (asking the proposing schools for any further information deemed necessary for adjudication) and will decide on the choice of winner. This choice will be made by reviewing the candidates' essays and CVs, and by assessing the acceptability of the proposed training activity in the context of their overall professional profiles and projects, also taking account of the characteristics of the relevant interpreting market.

It has been decided to award the "AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis" to the student who best displays, in his or her work and behaviour, a quality which is of great importance to AIIC, and which should always be a primary focus during training: professionalism.

For the purposes of the initiative, this wide-ranging concept will be defined as including the following qualities, skills and characteristics (selection criteria):

- the desire to understand and adhere to AIIC's core values and ethical requirements and recommendations;
- collegiality, altruism, awareness that interpreting is a team activity, and a demonstrated desire to assist fellow students;
- interpreting skills and techniques in simultaneous and consecutive;

- an approach indicating awareness that interpreting is a profession and a career more than simply a means of earning a living;
- the realisation that training and skills enhancement are necessary throughout an interpreting career;
- an awareness of one's own professional limits;
- the progress made throughout the (one or two-year) course, and a willingness to work hard and conscientiously;
- any specific and personal difficulties which have been overcome;
- an awareness of the importance of preparing for meetings;
- efforts made to adapt one's skills and language combinations to the perceived demands of the market;
- voice quality and projection;
- the desire to add or improve a 'B' and/or 'C' language;

The proposing school will be asked to base its assessment, and the resulting dossier it submits, on all the above qualities.

Timetable

- August 31st 2018 – deadline for dossiers to be sent, electronically, to Andrea Borges, AIIC Germany Junior Colleagues Development Officer, a.borges@aiic.net
- October 2018 – notification of the awards to schools and winning candidates
- November 17th 2018 – formal award ceremony and presentation of the prizewinner to the Region's members during AIIC Germany's regional meeting in Stuttgart.

Any queries should be addressed to: Andrea Borges, AIIC Germany Junior Colleagues Development Officer, a.borges@aiic.net