



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES INTERPRÈTES DE CONFÉRENCE
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS

AIIC Germany New Talent Award 2019

Cologne, July 3rd 2019

AIIC Germany is delighted to announce the 2019 round of its annual New Talent Award, the “AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis 2019”.

This annual prize gives concrete expression to the activities of AIIC Germany with the aim of reaching out to both interpreting schools and budding interpreters. The prize strives to bridge the gap between, on the one hand, recently qualified conference interpreters and those still in training, and, on the other hand, AIIC, with its extensive and varied activities within the world of professional conference interpreting.

AIIC wishes to reach out in a constructive way to those entering the profession, and thus to promote the professional and ethical values and standards which act as guarantors of excellence and ensure that conference interpreting 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 has graduated between April 2018 and August 2019 after successfully completing examinations following:

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

The grant can be used, at the discretion of the prizewinner and with the approval of AIIC, to finance further specialised language or professional training and networking within the calendar year following 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 budding 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 contact with the winner during the year following the award in order to offer individual guidance and give 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 AIIC Germany's annual regional meeting, which will be held in Leipzig on November 16th 2019, there will be a formal award ceremony, and the prizewinner will be presented to the Region's members.

In addition, the "AIIC-Region Deutschland Nachwuchspreis" also includes a visit to the language services departments of organizations such as the German Bundestag and the German Federal Foreign Office, where the prizewinner will have the opportunity to get an insight into the way they work and the specific linguistic requirements for those wishing to work there.

Procedure to be followed by German interpreting schools and students

Directors of courses in conference interpreting at German universities are invited to nominate a maximum of two students or recent graduates with any language combination who have been awarded a degree/diploma/MA in conference interpreting between April 2018 and August 2019.

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 university according to the selection criteria below. In addition, candidates are required to write a 700-word essay answering one of the following questions:

- 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 universities 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 interpreting;
- 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 university will be asked to base its assessment, and the resulting dossier it submits, on all the above qualities.

Timetable

- August 31st 2019 – deadline for dossiers to be sent, electronically, to Andrea Borges, AIIC Germany's New Talent Coordinator, a.borges@aiic.net
- October 2019 – notification of the award to universities and the winning candidate
- November 16th 2019 – formal award ceremony and presentation of the prizewinner to the Region's members during AIIC Germany's regional meeting in Leipzig.

Please address any queries to Andrea Borges, AIIC Germany's New Talent Coordinator, a.borges@aiic.net