



Midwifery Symposium 2016

Scholarships for Young Midwives

Call for Proposals

Scholarships for the Midwifery Symposium 2016:

UNFPA, the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), WHO, Jhpiego, Johnson and Johnson, Laerdal Global Health, Amref Health Africa and other collaborating multilateral, civil society and private sector partners are now accepting applications for 30 scholarships for the upcoming **Midwifery Symposium 2016**; "Young Midwives in the Lead", 14-16 May, 2016, and the Women Deliver conference 16-19 May 2016, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Symposium aims to build the skills and capacities of young midwives with leadership potential to engage in effective policy advocacy to strengthen quality midwifery care, services and workforce policies in their communities and countries by using evidence based arguments in order to achieve the sexual and reproductive health and universal health care agenda associated with achieving the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Scholarship winners will receive economy airfare for travel, accommodation and registration to attend Women Deliver and an allowance to cover meals and local transport.

If you are:

- A fully qualified midwife¹, actively practising midwifery at a clinic or in the community or engaged in midwifery research, education, or policy formulation;
- 35 years of age or younger;
- A potential young midwife leader and have demonstrated these skills in your professional life or done exemplary work on midwifery in your country;
- Committed to dedicating your time towards strengthening midwifery in your country and can have the support of the national midwives association or other midwifery educational body in your country;
- Passionate and dedicated about promoting midwifery;

And

If you would like:

- To become a national and/or international advocate for midwifery;
- To receive leadership training towards this end;

¹ As per ICM standards – "<http://www.internationalmidwives.org/>"

- To learn about the latest trends and innovations in midwifery;
- To be part of a global group of young midwives working to promote midwifery as a key aspect of improving maternal and newborn health;

Then we urge you to apply for a scholarship to the Symposium by:

A. Submitting, in your preferred language (English, French or Spanish), a 1,000 word proposal/essay that includes the following:

- A personal mission statement on your commitment towards women and newborns and quality midwifery care.
- Your personal vision for midwifery in your country.
- A brief description of your work in the community (service delivery, advocacy, etc.) and what makes you a potential leader.
- Describe briefly what leadership qualities you would like to strengthen and improve.
- Your views on challenges in improving quality midwifery care in your country and strategies you would employ (e.g support of national midwives association, partners etc) to effectively advocate for strengthening quality midwifery care and services, and improving distribution and working conditions of midwives in your country.

B. Attaching two letters of recommendation from recognized national midwifery, or other relevant health or related organization where you have worked.

Kindly note that some basic knowledge of English is highly desirable in order to fully participate in Women Deliver following the Symposium.

You can submit your contributions in the form of written submissions or in the form of 7-10 minute audio/video statements.

Deadline:

Applications for scholarship including name, age, address, nationality, e-mail, phone number as well as written proposal/essay or video should be sent to:

Midwiferysymposium2016@gmail.com

No later than 15th January 2016

**Note: Successful candidate will be informed by 29 February 2016.
Communications on status of scholarships will not be entertained.**

The Midwifery Symposium 2016:

UNFPA and partners are organizing a Symposium for young midwife leaders (YML) at the occasion of the Women Deliver conference 2016. The Midwifery Symposium will serve as capacity building, policy and advocacy event. The scholarship holders will receive leadership training and actively engage in discussions during the symposium and during the main Women Deliver to spread key messages on the crucial role of midwifery in enhancing the health and well-being of women and their newborns.

The Midwifery Symposium will take place on 14-16 May 2016 immediately preceding the Women Deliver conference on 16-19 May 2016. Both take place in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Symposium Objectives:

- a) Enhance the ability of young midwives with leadership potential to become powerful strategic leaders and advocates, and to engage in national policy dialogues with a stronger evidence-based voice.
- b) Highlight the role that midwives can play in achieving the new SDGs and to enhance their potential for fulfilling this role through increased knowledge about latest research findings and data (Lancet, State of the World's Midwifery Report) as well as about emerging issues at national, regional and global level.
- c) Create a global network of young midwife leaders (YML) to serve as a forum for exchanging good practices in scaling up midwifery and latest innovations in improving quality of midwifery care in order to enable the YML to have a greater impact across the entire health and social care system.
- d) Showcase how investments in YML from both the South and the North can help improve quality of care within midwifery practice; highlighting the importance of investment in midwifery research, advocacy, mentorship and leadership skills of young midwifery leaders.

Symposium Outcome:

- 1) Joint declaration of commitment from the young midwife leaders (YML) and the supporting global partners to enable the midwives to serve as advocates and providers of quality midwifery care in their countries
- 2) YML will also identify the support midwives needed from the global community, regional and national partners to fulfil the commitment