



Patient Classification Systems International (PCSI)

Financial hardship fund policy

Purpose of the financial hardship fund



The Patient Classification Systems International (PCSI) has in its charter of 2014 the objective:

To promote the coordination and cooperation among the different groups of professionals in the healthcare field, researchers and developers who use the patient classification systems around the world.

It is recognised that there are individuals who may not have the financial means to participate in the annual PCSI conference, or the PCSI casemix schools, which are the key avenues through which the PCSI's objective is achieved. Therefore, the PCSI makes available a hardship fund to assist individuals in these circumstances.

Criteria for accessing the fund



The fund is available to individuals from low and middle-income countries. The PCSI uses the World Bank classification of low and middle-income countries (see <https://data.worldbank.org/income-level/low-and-middle-income?view=chart>). The country is where the person works or studies currently, rather than where they originate.

Priority



For the conferences, the fund gives priority to individuals presenting a paper or poster at the conference, as shown in the Table below. The reason for this is that presenting a paper or poster is likely to result in greater capacity to engage with peers, and thus is more closely aligned with the PCSI's objective.

Table 1 – Priority for accessing the hardship fund to attend the PCSI's annual conference

	Paper/ poster	No paper/ poster
Low income country*	1 st priority	3 rd priority
Middle income country*	2 nd priority	4 th priority

* Based on the World Bank classification – see above.

For the PCSI casemix schools, individuals from low income countries are given highest priority, and those from middle-income countries the next priority.

Fund coverage



Applicants who meet the criteria for accessing the fund outlined above may be granted assistance as follows:

- Conference: reduction in registration fee or waived registration fee.
- PCSI casemix schools: reduction in the registration fee.
- Travel and accommodation: partial coverage (up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost) of travel and accommodation.

The amount of reduction for the conference fee or casemix school, and travel and accommodation coverage will depend on the individual circumstances of the applicant and the number of applicants in any one year.

Applying for the fund



Applicants for the hardship fund should send an email to the PCSI secretary (secretary@pcsinternational.org) addressing each of the following points:

1. Organisation/ institution and country where person works or is studying.
2. Position within the organisation, or course being studied and progress (e.g. 3rd year Bachelor of economics).
3. Acceptance notice of paper/ poster for the conference (if applicable).
4. Estimate of the total travel and accommodation costs for attendance at the conference or PCSI school, and the amount of coverage being sought from the PCSI.
5. Statement of how attending the conference or school will help to promote casemix amongst the individual's peers/ network.

Further information



For further information about the fund, please contact the PCSI secretary via email (secretary@pcsinternational.org).