



The International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

BRIGHT SPARK LECTURE

Award Application Form

Developed by the Honors and Recognition Board Level Committee

Purpose:

The Bright Spark Lecture (BSL) Award fosters the active involvement of young ISSMGE members in international and regional conferences organized by ISSMGE or under its auspices. It recognizes the excellence of their contributions and offers promising geotechnical engineers and academics the opportunity to deliver invited lectures. By amplifying their voices, the award nurtures future leaders and enhances the visibility of innovative work within the global geotechnical community.

Conference Requirements:

- Organized by ISSMGE or under its auspices
- Provides reduced registration fees for young members (under 35 years old)
- Has young members participating and co-authoring accepted papers from at least 5 member societies
- Dedicates time slot for the BSL plenary presentation/s and awards ceremony
- Waives registration fee for BSL Awardees

Awardee Responsibilities:

Each awardee will be invited to give at least a 20-minute presentation at the nominating conference. In addition, each awardee is expected to prepare a plenary paper, ensuring that his/her contribution is formally shared with the geotechnical community.

Eligibility:

- Outstanding and promising young members actively contributing to the geotechnical community at the local, regional, or international level.
- Individual members of ISSMGE for at least the last three years
- No more than 35 years old
- Excellent records in academia or industry
- Nominated by an ISSMGE Member Society

Timeline:

Nominations must be submitted to ISSMGE for internal review, recommendation, and Presidential approval. This timeline ensures thorough evaluation and sufficient time for the preparation of certificates.

- A National Member Society calls on its young members to submit applications for the BSL Award associated with an eligible conference.
- Young members submit their applications to their National Member Society at least six months before the conference.
- The National Member Society reviews the applications and submits its nomination(s) to the conference organizers at least four months before the conference.
- Conference organizers review all nominations received from National Member Societies and select a maximum of four candidates, with no more than two candidates originating from the same Member Society. The conference organizers then submit the selected nominations to awards@issmge.org at least three months before the conference. The submission should also include a preliminary conference programme indicating the BSL sessions.

ISSMGE Application Review Procedure:

BSL nominations are evaluated by the Honors and Recognition Committee (HRC) for technical review. The HRC can invite representatives from the conference scientific committee to join the deliberations. The HRC submits its recommendations to the ISSMGE President, who makes the final decision. Once approved, the BSL award certificates are signed by the president and passed to the conference organizing committee.

Bright Spark Lecture Award Timeline

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Applicant Submission Checklist:

- ☐ Application form
- ☐ High-quality photo of applicant suitable for print and digital use
- ☐ Curriculum Vitae and short bio
- ☐ Early career record (including member society engagement, research, publications, projects, awards etc...)
- ☐ Scopus Author ID or ORCID Number, for academic applications
- ☐ Professional achievements and contributions, for industry applications (significant engineering project, technical guidelines / manual, innovation, patent, standards / codes, software or technical tools, major engineering award etc.)
- ☐ Short video (1-2 minutes) prepared by applicant introducing the paper or project that will be presented at the conference
- ☐ Nomination Letter from the applicant's national member society including the years when the applicant joined the society and the ISSMGE

Conference Organizing Committee Submission Checklist:

- ☐ Complete applicant file
- ☐ Endorsement letter of nominee
- ☐ Conference program-at-a-glance with allocated slots for BSL Session

Notes:

A maximum of two BSL Awards may be delivered at an eligible conference. When possible, awardees should represent both academia and industry. It is also preferable that they come from different member societies. Certificates are presented to recipients during a dedicated BSL Awards session, and information is subsequently relayed to ISSMGE for posting on the official website.

Click [here](#) for the complete application form, or download the partial sections to be filled by [Applicant](#), [Member Society](#), [Conference Organizers](#) and [ISSMGE](#).