



INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND  
DISTANCE EDUCATION

Lilleakerveien 23  
0283 Oslo, Norway  
Phone: + 47 22 06 26 30  
Fax: + 47 22 06 26 31  
[icde@icde.org](mailto:icde@icde.org)  
[www.icde.org](http://www.icde.org)

**TO:**

**Potential GDC Sponsors**

**Invitation to donate for the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium, in particular for travel grants for PhD students.**

Together with its partner institutions<sup>1</sup> – ICDE can inform that the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium (GDC) has been an initiative growing beyond our projections. Having estimated around 50 Ph.D students taking part in the community by the end of 2017, the GDC is already a lively global community with over 140 Ph.D. students related to the research fields of online, open, flexible and technology enhanced learning. All members of the GDC has received a free ICDE associate membership within the duration of their Ph.D. studies.

The consortium, that now fosters knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts across borders, currently serves students from 58 different universities from 40 different countries. In addition to a wide geographical distribution, close to 40 % is female – creating a diverse and dynamic research community that at large highlights both the current and future trends within educational research.

Last year the GDC facilitated webinars, working groups and local events at partner universities – and in 2017 the doctoral students will be invited to attend a separate “Doctoral Student Track” at the ICDE World Conference in Toronto in October. As the candidates come from diverse backgrounds and locations, the GDC has established a fund from which the doctoral students may apply for travel grants.

The grants will be distributed to eligible members of the Global Doctoral Consortium by the following selection criteria, established by the Steering Committee:

- Doctoral students from disadvantaged backgrounds to be prioritized
- To urge gender distribution
- To urge regional distribution
- To secure relevant research topics to be presented at the conference\*
- To secure a wide range of research topics to be presented at the conference\*
- Doctoral students with accepted papers for the GDC track at the conference\* to be prioritized

---

<sup>1</sup> *Asia eUniversity, Charles Sturt University, Contact North, Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, University of South Africa and Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.*

ICDE now invites organizations and companies to contribute to the GDC with a desired amount, in accordance with the attached sponsorship scheme. All travel grant applications will be reviewed by an appointed committee and grants are granted in conformity with the GDC Project Mandate, also attached, supervised by the project's Steering Committee.

A social event for sponsors and doctoral students will be arranged during the Toronto conference, giving the opportunity to meet and interact with the doctoral students that you have sponsored.

ICDE is accepting donations to our bank account. Please see the attached form to be filled out. By completing the form, returning it to [icde@icde.org](mailto:icde@icde.org) and transfer the desired amount to the ICDE bank account, you make a significant contribution to the sustainability of the Global Doctoral Consortium.

Thank you for your contribution!

Date: 19 April 2017

For ICDE,



Gard Titlestad

Secretary General

*\*ICDE World Conference in Toronto - October 2017*

**Attachments:**

- 1) *Donation Form*
- 2) *Sponsorship Scheme*
- 3) *Project Mandate*

**Bank details:**

**Desk Officer:**