

## **AWG research fellows' program**

### **Request for expressions of interest - 2024**

The Aviation Working Group (AWG) invites expressions of interest in our research fellows program.

#### **The research fellows program**

1. The AWG research fellows program was established in 2021. It is designed for graduate (including law) students with diverse backgrounds, minorities, and women. It is centered on researching topics relevant to AWG projects [specific information on these projects and their scope can be found at: <http://awg.aero/our-projects/>].

2. The research fellows topic currently of particular interest is on the following: **Cross border transferability (XBT) and bilateral air safety agreements (BASAs)**.

Notes on that topic:

a. The nature and structure of the global aviation industry has fundamentally changed over the past four decades for reasons such as deregulation and reduced levels of governmental financial support. Operators have also adopted more outsourcing of aircraft flight operations and ground handling across international borders and are using code-sharing, alliances and leasing to gain operational flexibility and reduce capital outlays.

b. Due to these changes, an aircraft is increasingly likely to have multiple transfers of nationality over the course of its useful life, yet many regulations and related processes continue to implicitly assume that operators own and retain an aircraft for most or all of its useful life. AWG refers to such changes in nationality as a 'cross-border transfer' or 'an XBT' of an aircraft and the related field of regulation and practice as 'cross-border transferability' or simply 'XBT'.

c. The overriding objective of AWG work on XBT is to seek alignment of international regulation, national law, and best practices with the realities of cross-border transfers while at all times maintaining or improving the highest standards of safety through processes that reduce regulatory overlap and duplication and promote consistency, accuracy and simplicity. That entails working with all impacted constituencies to significantly accelerate current efforts (mainly undertaken through regional efforts and BASAs to develop harmonized regulations and procedures that streamline aircraft importations and re-registrations, confirmations of airworthiness and issuance of applicable certifications.

d. The subject research will be centered on determining the extent to which BASAs explicitly seeks to facilitate, and, in any event, actually facilitates, XBTs (by increasing confidence levels in airworthiness determinations made by one country (the exporting state) on airworthiness-related determinations in another country (the importing state)).

#### **The research topic and deliverables**

3. Expressions of interest are encouraged at this time for the above.

4. The research fellows program is centered on a 9-month research project with iterative research, writing, and reporting, in the form, and quality levels, to be determined on a case-by-case basis by AWG in consultation with the selected fellows. The research may be used as agreed between AWG and the selected fellows.

5. Financial support will be provided to each AWG research fellows in the sum of 5k USD. The outcome of the research will be presented to the AWG board, and, if agreed by the board, to the full AWG membership and/or published on the AWG website.

#### **Candidates**

6. The research fellowship is open to selected students with diverse backgrounds, minorities, and women seeking advanced degrees in law, business, finance, economics, or sustainability studies.

#### **Selection process**

7. Please submit the following to the AWG secretariat: (i) CV, (ii) proposed research fellow topic (a one-page summary), and (iii) statement of purpose explaining background and your field of research.

Attention: Jeffrey Wool, secretary general, AWG ([jeffrey.wool@awg.aero](mailto:jeffrey.wool@awg.aero)), with copy to: Miguel Ruelas, senior assistant secretary, AWG ([miguel.ruelas@awg.aero](mailto:miguel.ruelas@awg.aero)), and Karla Baston, assistant secretary ([karla.baston@awg.aero](mailto:karla.baston@awg.aero)).

8. Fellows will be selected by the AWG secretariat following review of materials and an interview.

## **ABOUT AWG**

The Aviation Working Group (AWG) is a not-for-profit entity that works on the development of laws, regulations, and rules to facilitate aviation financing and leasing. AWG, co-chaired by Airbus and Boeing, is comprised of the world's leading aviation manufacturers, lessors, and financiers. AWG leads a range of efforts to enhance the global framework for aviation financing and leasing. To find out more visit [www.awg.aero](http://www.awg.aero).