

# Early Career European Region Exchange Program Application



**Application Deadline: June 1**

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## Program Overview

The IPPS Southern Region Early Career International Exchange Program was established in 2013 and supports emerging horticulture professionals by providing financial assistance and professional development opportunities through participation in an IPPS European Region Meeting, followed by reciprocal engagement with the IPPS Southern Region.

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## Program Eligibility

Applicants must meet **one** of the following criteria:

- Be 35 years of age or younger, or
- Be new to the horticulture industry

## Additional Eligibility

- Must be a current IPPS Southern Region member
  - Must hold a valid U.S. passport at the time of travel: U.S. travelers must have a passport that's valid for the duration of their trip and generally for at least **three months beyond the planned date of departure**
  - **ETIAS Authorization:** Starting in the last quarter of 2026, U.S. visitors to European countries will be required to obtain a **European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS)** travel authorization before departure. ETIAS is not a visa but a pre-travel screening like the U.S. ESTA system. It involves an online application, a small fee (around \$20), and, once approved, is valid for multiple short trips over three years or until the passport expires.
  - All travel arrangements are the responsibility of the selected Delegate (not IPPS Southern Region)
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## Applicant Information

**Full Name:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

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## Education

**Institution Name:**

**Institution Address:**

**Degree or Certificate Earned:**

**Dates Attended:**

☐ If not completed, please indicate highest level achieved:

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## Employment Experience

Please list your most recent position

**Employer / Organization:**

**Dates of Employment:**

**Position Title:**

**Brief Description of Responsibilities:**

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## Professional Reference

Please attach one educational or professional reference (no family members).  
Include name, title, organization, email address, and phone number.

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## Required Essay Responses

*(Maximum 400 words total; may be submitted as a single document)*

1. **Professional Engagement with IPPS**

Describe your involvement with IPPS to date. How has participation in meetings, committees, or networking opportunities influenced your professional development?

2. **Purpose and Value of the Exchange**

Explain why participating in the IPPS International Exchange Program is important at this stage of your career. What specific learning opportunities or professional outcomes do you anticipate?

3. **Contribution and Impact**

How will you contribute to the IPPS community during and after the exchange? Include how you plan to share knowledge gained with the Southern Region and the broader horticulture industry.

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## Additional Information

- Have you previously presented at an IPPS Southern Region Annual Meeting?  
☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, what year did you present?

Please include any additional information that strengthens your application including leadership roles, research, industry involvement, or unique experiences.

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## Applicant Agreement

I certify that all information provided in this application is accurate and complete. I understand the responsibilities associated with participation in the IPPS Southern Region Early Career International Exchange Program.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

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## **Submission Information DUE JUNE 1**

Please submit completed applications to:

**Donna Foster**

Email: [scplant@bellsouth.net](mailto:scplant@bellsouth.net)

Phone: (803) 743-4284