

**Social and Human Sciences Sector**

National Commissions for  
UNESCO

Ref.: SHS/REI/IRD/23/18

11 April 2023

Dear Secretary-General,

I am writing to inform you of the launch on the 8 March 2023 of the third edition of the 'Silk Roads Youth Research Grant – Reinforcing the Capacity and Contribution of Young Researchers to the Silk Roads' initiative, organised within the framework of the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme, and with the kind support of the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO.

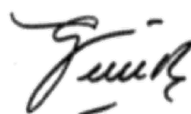
The grant aims to mobilize young researchers for further study of the shared legacy and spirit of the Silk Roads, awarding 12 grants to young women and men (aged 35 and younger). Applicants are invited to address areas of study relating to the shared heritage and plural identities developed over centuries of interaction along the Silk Roads. Their research will also highlight the contemporary relevance of these interconnections and the potential of this heritage and these identities for creativity, dialogue, social cohesion, regional and international cooperation, and ultimately, in keeping with UNESCO's mandate, for sustainable peace and development.

I am pleased to share with you the link to the grant's website (<https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/youthgrant>) where you will find all the information about this most recent call for proposals. The call for proposals will be open until 31 May 2023 and I invite you to disseminate the information on this initiative across academic and youth networks within your country; encouraging them to apply for the grant. This will help us reach as many young researchers as possible and achieve a gender and geographic balance amongst the grantees as accomplished with the first and second editions.

My colleagues, Mr Mehrdad Shabahang (m.shabahang@unesco.org) Programme Specialist for the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme, and Ms Tara Golkar (t.golkar@unesco.org) remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

With my best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely,



Gabriela Ramos  
Assistant Director-General