

Motivation Letter: Bursary application for the AES Annual Conference

I am writing to apply for the bursary for the AES annual conference in 2023. I expect to graduate in the spring of 2023 with my PhD in Economics from KU Leuven in Belgium. My PhD dissertation is titled “Subsidies, competition and growth: evidence from EU regions, agriculture and food chains”.

First, I expect to receive valuable feedback from the AES conference participants. Over the course of my PhD, I have already witnessed the quality of my paper improving each time I attend conferences. Academic conferences are always intellectually stimulating. I believe the benefits I could get from the AES annual conference will be significant. The AES annual conference, organized by one of the most prestigious associations of agricultural economists, is an important venue for me. My main field of research is agricultural economics with a focus on high-income countries. There is no other conference where my research could fit better. This will be my first time attending the AES annual conference. Unfortunately, the pandemic and my research stay abroad prevented me from attending the previous AES conferences.

Second, the timing of the 2023 AES conference is particularly optimal for me. I plan to have my final PhD defence somewhere in the spring of 2023. The high-quality comments I would receive at the conference will help improve my paper and thus will increase the chance of positive feedback from my PhD examination committee. It will be a great pleasure to be able to attend the AES conference for the first time as the last conference of my PhD program.

Third, I have no other financial support to participate in conferences abroad. My PhD scholarship officially ends in February 2023. As a consequence, from my university, I will not be able to receive any financial support for conference participation.

I would be very glad to be awarded the bursary to be able to substantially improve the quality of my work at the end of my PhD when I would have no other financial means to participate in conferences. Thank you very much for your consideration.