

WCRP Global Fellowship Program:

“Enhancing science leadership in Least Developed Countries”

Objective

The WCRP Fellowship program is designed to provide early to mid-career scientists from Least Developed Countries with the opportunity to develop their own research activities and strengthen climate research in their own region. The program will cover a wide range of scientific questions addressed in the WCRP Science and Implementation Plan, as formulated through the priorities of WCRP activities (Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities). It will prioritise research questions addressing either the multidimensional perspective of WCRP research activities and/or the challenges to produce relevant and actionable climate information that fulfils the specific regional societal needs for a sustainable future.

The program is under the responsibility of the WCRP JSC with the support of the WCRP secretariat. It is organised by a task team.

- The WCRP fellowship task team is composed of 4 JSC members (including either the JSC chair or vice-chair as chair) and 2 additional members from the WCRP Academy

The Fellowship Calls

- Each year, up to 50k CHF will be allocated to the fellowship program to support up to 3 fellowships
- A specific call will be issued each year by the WCRP secretariat.
- The call will highlight either a range of eligible topics or a Global South region that will be eligible for the fellowship.
- The task team is in charge of writing the proposal involving the WCRP core activities (Core Projects, Lighthouse Activities and the Academy) where appropriate.
- The call proposal will be presented for discussion at the annual JSC meeting.
- Final approval of the call will be made by the JSC at the JSC meeting, or not later than 2 weeks after.
- The call should be issued by early July at the latest.
- Core project IPOs will be invited to assist the WCRP secretariat depending on their interest in the call.

Proposals

- Proposal should remain short, in line with the Terms of reference and guidelines for eligible funding (see selection criteria below).
- A template will be proposed to guide the applicants in the redaction of their proposal.
- It is highly recommended that applicants engage with WCRP activities to prepare their proposal; point of contact to be provided for each call.
- The Secretariat will serve as the main point of administrative contact for the applicants.

Funding

- The funding is dedicated to the fellow's research. It cannot exceed the amount reserved for the call.
- It can cover salary (total or part thereof), travel and subsistence for visits, or participation in workshop/conference directly related to the research topic.

- The proposal should justify the different costs, following WMO rules.
- The proposal must be supported by a host institution in the targeted region that is willing to host the fellow over the entire duration of the fellowship.
- Co-funding with a WCRP/WMO partner is possible. In this case candidate are invited to discuss the way to prepare the co-funding aspect with the WCRP secretariat.

Selection

- A selection committee will be appointed by the JSC based on recommendations of the WCRP Fellowship task team and the JSC core activities as soon as the call content is approved.
- The composition of the selection committee is independent from the JSC Task team in charge of the program, even if some of the members can belong to both. It will include a 2-3 JSC members, one of whom will act as the chair of the committee, + 1 member from the WCRP Academy and 2-3 topic specialists from CP and LHA or the broader climate community chosen for their expertise with regards to the call priorities. The membership of the selection committee will be revisited each year.
- Applications will be evaluated by the fellowship selection committee through a two-step process. The first step will shortlist candidates for an oral interview, based on the proposed project and the candidate's CV. The second step is the interview of the shortlisted candidates and the final ranking.
- The calendar of the selection committee meeting will be specified in the call.
- The dates for the candidate interviews will be specified in the call.
- The first meeting of the selection committee should not be later than September.
- The preselection meeting will take place 1 to 1.5 month after the close of the call for applications.
- The interview of the candidates should take place 2 months after the close of the call for applications.
- The final selection by the selection committee will be done within 2 weeks after the last interview and the ranked list proposed to the JSC.
- The JSC, though the JSC chair, will provide the final approval of the selection within 1 week after the final selection is done.
- Selection criteria will consider research originality, candidate CV, productivity and potential leadership of the candidate, as well as how likely the candidate will benefit from the fellowship program and contribute to WCRP's objectives.
- The evaluation metrics will be published as guidelines for the preparation of the application package and to ensure transparency of the selection process.

Application package content

- Research proposal
- CV
- Personal statement addressing how the fellowship will benefit the applicant
- Letters of support from the WCRP activities are recommended
- Letter of support from the host institution where relevant

Applications need to be written in English, but exception can be made upon request.

Time lines

Summary of the overall timing

- Proposition for the call: annual JSC meeting
- Approval of the call: at the JSC meeting or no more than two weeks after
- Publication of the call: end of June-early July
- Establishment of the selection committee end of June -early July
- First meeting of the selection committee:
- Close of the fellowship call: no later than September
- Publication of dates of the interview meeting: period pre-announced in the call, exact dates specified after the first selection committee meeting and specified to the selected candidates after the pre-selection meeting.

Annex

An example of metrics for selection

1. Research Originality (35 points):
 - Novelty and uniqueness of the research proposal; (20 points)
 - Potential for significant contributions to the field (15 points)
2. Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (20 points)
 - Academic qualifications and achievements (10 points)
 - Relevant research experience and publications (10 points)
3. Evidence of leadership skills and potential for future leadership roles (15 points)
4. Alignment with WCRP Objectives (15 points)
 - Relevance of the proposed research to WCRP's goals and priorities (10 points)
 - Potential for the candidate's research to contribute to WCRP's objectives (5 points)
5. Potential for the candidate to make significant contributions to the program (10 points)

Scoring Guidelines (as an example to be further discussed):

90-100 points: Excellent candidate, strongly recommended for the fellowship

80-89 points: Very good candidate, recommended for the fellowship

70-79 points: Good candidate, consider for the fellowship

60-69 points: Average candidate, may need additional evaluation

Below 60 points: Candidate does not meet the criteria for the fellowship

Total: 100 points