

Bioversity International Vavilov–Frankel Fellowships 2010

Guidelines for preparation of research proposals

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist candidates to prepare research proposals for submission to the Vavilov–Frankel Fellowships Fund.

The research should have a clear benefit and linkage to the home institute or home country or other developing country. Applicants must show in the proposal how the research opportunity will be applied after the Fellowship in the framework of a national or regional programme or in a developing country. Furthermore, fellows are encouraged to present the results of their research at an international conference. This can take place within one year of termination of the Fellowship.

The research proposal should be no more than 2000 words, not inclusive of the bibliography. The proposal should be typed in a serif font (e.g. Times or Palatino) of 12 point size, with double line spacing, and should include the following:

- **Problem statement** (issue, research question or problem to be investigated).
- **Justification and rationale** (importance and significance of subject, why is it important to be addressed? how does it relate to the objective of the Vavilov–Frankel Fellowship?)
- **Literature review** (review of work that has been done on this issue).
- **Main objective and specific objectives** (candidate’s proposed contribution).
- **Hypotheses or research questions** (statements which you will test through experimentation).
- **Materials and methods** (materials needed to accomplish the research and research design, data sources, procedures and analytical techniques to be employed).
- **Expected outputs** (product(s) resulting during/from the research).
- **Beneficiaries and impact** (intended audience for the product and outcome of the research in terms of plant genetic resources conservation and use, potential application of results and social/economic benefits for the home institute or home country or other developing country).
- **Innovativeness** (what is novel in the identification of the problem or approach and what would this proposal add to the knowledge base).
- **Application of results** (show how the training, knowledge or skills will be applied after the Fellowship in the framework of ongoing research in the home institute or in a national or regional programme or in another developing country).
- **Work plan for the proposed period of the fellowship** (activities and timetable—see sample workplan below).

Sample workplan

Main activities	Timeline (months)
Activity 1	
Activity 2	
Activity 3	
Activity 4	



- **Applicant's expertise in relation to the issues to be investigated** (related previous research work including MSc/PhD research, involvement in ongoing research programmes/PhD research).
- **Budget** (cost of implementation of the proposed activities—see budget headings in the application form. Indicate other funding sources, if available).
- **Bibliography.**

Proposals for GRDC support

Proposals that might be supported by GRDC, Australia, must be carried out at an Australian research institute, address one of the research themes in the Announcement and in addition meet at least one of the following four criteria (indicate clearly which):

- Target a species that is a priority for both Australia and the home country
- Target an alternative, neglected or underutilized species with either environmental or economic potential for Australia
- Work on any of the following specific crops: wheat, barley, oats, sorghum, cereal rye, triticale, maize, canary seed, millets/panicum, canola, linseed, safflower, soybeans, sunflowers, chickpeas, cowpeas, fababeans, field peas, lentils, lupins, mung beans, navy beans, peanuts, pigeon peas and vetch
- Use biotechnology in support of efficient use of plant genetic resources

Documentation Required with the Application

- **Complete application form in English, French or Spanish**
- **Cover letter**
- **Full Curriculum Vitae (with publications list)**
- **Research proposal (following above guidelines)**
- **Letter of Acceptance from the Proposed Host Institute** – Note this letter must indicate agreement with the content of the research proposal and agreement to provide all data or information that would be needed to repeat the research upon termination of the fellowship.
- **Letter of Support from Institute in a Developing Country (preferably the Home Institute)** – Note this letter must specify why the research is important to the institute, how the research will be applied to the benefit of the institute and/or country and should identify the support that will be provided to the applicant upon return.

For further information contact:

Vavilov–Frankel Fellowships

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