



BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES



Co-operative Research Programme:
Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems



Fellowship Awards Programme

Call for Applications for Funding in 2025: Application Guidelines and Conditions

In order to prepare your Research Application Form in a timely manner, please read these guidelines carefully. If you have any administrative questions, please do not hesitate to contact TAD.PROG@oecd.org. For specific scientific assistance with your Research Application we strongly recommend that you contact the relevant [Scientific Advisory Body Member](#) (Research Theme Co-ordinator) prior to submitting your Application Form.

Objectives and Fellowship Awards

The Co-operative Research Programme's ("CRP") main aim is to strengthen scientific knowledge and provide relevant scientific information and advice that will inform future policy decisions related to the sustainable use of natural resources, in the areas of food, agriculture, forests and fisheries.

The objective and work of the CRP are anchored in both a policy and scientific environment in the fields of food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which, more than ever, are developed in a multidisciplinary environment. This happens so as to respond to the varied demands from a range of stakeholder groups with interests in these fields, and to take into account that the world is globalised and food production systems are interlinked.

Contact details of the CRP Secretariat

OECD

Co-operative Research Programme Secretariat

Trade and Agriculture Directorate

2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16

France

E-mail: TAD.PROG@oecd.org

DEADLINE FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS: 10 SEPTEMBER 2024



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Who is eligible to apply for a CRP Research Fellowship?

- Applicants must be working in an institution located in a country that currently participates in the OECD Co-operative Research Programme (CRP), and the collaborating host institution must be located in another participating country.

Countries participating in the CRP:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States.

Scientists already holding a position in a foreign laboratory are not eligible to apply to remain in that laboratory.

The CRP's preference is to support new collaborations, not ongoing ones.

- Applicants should have **4 years of postdoctoral training**. The programme is not targeted at PhD students. In exceptional circumstances, consideration will be given to applicants who, although not having a PhD, have the equivalent expertise and have been extensively published. For all applications, priority is given to the overall scientific quality of each application considering its relevance to the Programme's Research Themes and the Programme's multi-disciplinary focus.
- Applicants should have a **contract with their present employer that ensures their continued employment** after completion of the fellowship. If the contract is less than 3 years, applicants are requested to ask their institution to certify that there will be a continued on-going scientific affiliation with the host laboratory once the fellowship ends, as this ensures that the relationships established during the fellowship are put to beneficial use.
- Before submitting an application, candidates should have their **employers' agreement** to the application and to the take up of the fellowship should they be successful.
- A candidate who has already been the recipient of a CRP fellowship may apply for a **second award**, but only 5 years after the year of their first fellowship.



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Selection criteria for fellowship award applications

Applications are assessed on their relevance to the CRP's objective and the selection criteria explained below.

It is therefore highly recommended that these be addressed in any Fellowship award application:

- The extent to which the proposed visit and project provides **a significant and relevant contribution to the achievement of the aims of the CRP and to the [Theme objectives](#)**.
- **Scientific excellence** – the need for clearly defined and focussed objectives, and the promise of innovative outcomes which can be achieved within the planned study.
- **Compatibility of Fellow and Host** – the proposal demonstrates that the capabilities of the Fellow and the Host are compatible and that the infrastructure available in the host location will support success with the work proposed.
- The **feasibility of achieving the goals** set in the proposed work – the extent to which the proposal demonstrates that the outcomes of the proposal are achievable within the timeframe requested.
- The **scientific record and achievements of the proposer** – judged for example by contributions to science and the scientific literature published.
- **Crossing disciplines** – the extent to which the proposed study involves interactions between scientific disciplines, and a readiness to engage with those beyond the research community to explore wider societal implications.
- **Dissemination** – the project's plans for appropriate dissemination of the accomplishments to optimise the benefits to society.
- **Potential impact** – what practical outcome the research project will result in and how it will influence or advance the field or work.
- **Policy relevance** – how and the degree to which the research proposal will inform policy makers in the development of their national and international agro-food, fisheries or forestry policies.

Please note that new collaborations will be treated preferentially to ongoing collaborations.



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How does the CRP Fellowship award process work?

- The **deadline** for submission of applications for a 2025 Fellowship is **10 September 2024**. Confirmation that the application has been submitted and received by the Secretariat is automatically sent by the system.
- Fellowships may be from **6 to 26 weeks**.
- Applications must be submitted in English using the on-line application form, with all relevant fields completed and detailed descriptions given where necessary¹ (see sample applications for our previous themes: [example 1](#), [example 2](#) and [example 3](#)). Applicants must attach their CV (see [sample CV](#)) and a list of their publications written during the last five years. Please note that CVs will be passed on to the members of the Scientific Advisory Body who will assess the applications.
- A **letter of acceptance from the host institution** indicating their willingness to accept the Fellow if successful must also be attached to the application. It should be on headed paper, dated and signed. The letter should also mention the starting and ending dates of the proposed fellowship, what the visiting applicant will bring to the host institution, what the host institution will bring to the applicant, the description of the work with its objectives and methods and the equipment provided (see [sample invitation letter](#)).
The original of this letter must be sent to the Secretariat.
- Candidates should **address all the selection criteria** in their applications to increase their chances of success.
- Applicants are **strongly encouraged to liaise directly with the relevant [Scientific Advisory Body member](#)** (Theme Co-ordinator) prior to submitting an application.
- Award decisions will be made by mid-December 2024 and research applicants will be informed of the results by the Secretariat in January 2025 at the latest.
- It is possible that an award may be given for fewer weeks than requested in the application.
- Once a fellowship is awarded, reductions to the length will only be permitted for well justified and practical issues. Any such changes should first be discussed with the Secretariat and require approval of the Secretariat in consultation with the Science Advisory Body. No changes representing a reduction of 20% or more in the length of the fellowship will be permitted.
- For administrative reasons, it is advised that research visits do not start before 1st March 2025. All administrative arrangements for all research fellows departing in 2025 must be completed before 1 November 2025, although departure may be undertaken up to 15 December 2025 at the latest.

¹ The online application form only supports ordinary text. Please avoid using formatted text, bullet points and tables. If it is necessary to provide a table, please upload it through the application form or send it separately to TAD.Prog@oecd.org



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What does the Fellowship Award comprise and how is it calculated?

The Fellowship award consists of 3 components which collectively are called the travel lump sum allowance. The total travel lump sum allowance awarded will depend upon distance from the Fellow's laboratory to the host institution and the number of weeks of the fellowship.

1. **Travel costs** (calculated based on a return economy class air ticket. Note that the travel allowance is calculated to cover a one return trip to and from the host laboratory and the place of domicile.
2. **Weekly Subsistence Allowance:** currently 600 EUR or 650 EUR per week (depending on the cost of living of the host country). This subsistence allowance is to cover all normal living expenses (accommodation, food, etc.) and incidentals (daily travel to and from work etc.)
3. **Terminal charges:** A lump sum allowance of 165 EUR is paid to cover transportation costs incurred in the taking and leaving of duties at the host laboratory.

Please note that these are the only costs covered by the travel lump sum for the fellowship period and no other costs will be reimbursed.

What the Fellowship Award does not cover:

Insurance:

An accepted Fellow is not insured by the Co-operative Research Programme or the OECD. Successful applicants must therefore liaise with their employer to ensure that they have adequate insurance, including medical cover, throughout the entire fellowship.

Day-to-day Travel:

Daily travel to/from the host laboratory (going to work) is not covered separately as this is covered by the travel costs lump sum.

Family Travel, Bench Fees, Laboratory Fees and Other Incidentals:

- The travel costs, subsistence costs and any other related expenses of family members wishing to join a fellow during their fellowship are not covered. The fellowship award pertains to the fellow only.
- Costs pertaining to administrative procedures, such as passports and visas, medical coverage, insurance of any kind, removals, are at the expense of the fellow.
- Laboratory costs and bench fees are not covered. These are usually covered by the host laboratory. If not, the fellow should find funds to cover them; the home organisation may be able to contribute towards these costs.

Visas:

Costs incurred in acquiring a visa for the host country (if one is necessary) are not covered. If a visa is required for your host country, we would strongly advise successful applicants to contact the relevant embassy or consulate to find out how long is needed to obtain a visa. Administrative delays with visa processing could impact on the departure date and therefore possibly delay the fellowship schedule.

Tax Status:

Under the present fellowship award, you are not considered to be an official of the OECD; you will therefore not be privileged to any tax exemptions on the lump sum paid by the Organisation.

Bank Charges

The OECD is not liable for any charges that may be levied by receiving banks for receiving bank transfers or for cashing cheques.

If any Problems arise before or during your Fellowship, please contact the Theme Co-ordinator or the Secretariat as soon as possible in case they are able to help.



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If you are accepted for a CRP Fellowship Award

- The Secretariat will notify successful applicants in writing, confirming the amount awarded. You will be required to **sign the fellowship acceptance form**, indicating the proposed start date of your research.

Should, for any reason, you need to change the dates of your fellowship by more than 7 days before or after the date indicated in your application form, you must contact the CRP Secretariat immediately to request permission to do so, explaining the reason for changing the dates and providing an agreement from your host institution to this change.

Only when the CRP Secretariat has received your Acceptance Form, duly signed and dated, will your fellowship be classed as accepted and the subsequent official letter of contract can be processed.

Approximately three months before your departure date, you will receive an **official letter of contract** confirming your fellowship award. This official letter of contract will enclose:

- General Terms and Conditions of OECD payments
- An Acceptance Form to confirm acceptance of the general terms and conditions; this must be returned to the CRP Secretariat before you start your fellowship
- A model invoice for our first payment to you
- A bank account details form to enable us to make bank transfers of the money

If your Fellowship is less than or equal to 12 weeks:

- You will receive 50% of your award as soon as the Secretariat receives your Acceptance Form, invoice and bank account details. This payment will be made by bank transfer.²
- Once your host laboratory has confirmed your arrival with them, we will send you a second model invoice for the remaining 50% of your money so it can be transferred to your bank account.

If your Fellowship is more than 12 weeks:

- You will receive 50% of your award as soon as the Secretariat receives your Acceptance Form, invoice and bank account details. This payment will be made by bank transfer.
- Once your host laboratory has confirmed your arrival with them, we will send you a model invoice for 25% of the remaining amount.
- The remaining 25% of your award will be paid half-way through your fellowship.

Payments will be processed by electronic bank transfer, either to your own bank account, or to a newly-opened bank account in the host country. In this case, you will need to send the Secretariat the details of your new bank account as soon as possible.

² USDA Officials – see the note at the end of these guidelines.



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Your obligations as a recipient of a Fellowship Award

- As soon as you arrive at your host laboratory, **you must ask your host supervisor to confirm your arrival** with the Programme Secretariat by e-mail (TAD.PROG@oecd.org). Upon receipt of this confirmation, your second fellowship payment will be processed.

If your host laboratory wishes to include visits to other laboratories as part of the research, authorisation should be obtained from the CRP Secretariat.

- You are required to complete and return an **Evaluation Questionnaire** within 2 weeks of the end of your Fellowship. This will be sent to you shortly before the end of your Fellowship.
- You are required to complete a **Summary Report** and send it to the Secretariat as soon as possible, but no later than two months after the end of your fellowship. The Summary Report should include a one paragraph non-scientific explanation of how your research might benefit society.

The submission of a Summary Report within two months of the end of your fellowship is a condition of the award. Should you fail to submit a Summary Report, you will be requested to reimburse 10% of the total amount of the lump sum.

- If a **publication** results, we request that you send us a copy and that you credit the Programme in a note or footnote, as follows: “[Your name] acknowledges the receipt of a fellowship from the OECD Co-operative Research Programme: Sustainable Agricultural and Food Systems in [Year]”.

Note for USDA/ARS Officials and other US Government Agents

ARS requires each scientist to obtain permission to apply for outside funding (i.e. competitive grants programmes or Research Fellowship applications) from their line manager prior to submitting applications.

ARS scientists should work directly with their immediate supervisor or Research Leader to receive all necessary approvals prior to submitting the Research Fellowship application form to OECD. For additional information, please contact the Agreement Specialist at your Area Office or at HQ, Extramural Agreements Division (301 504-1141).

Payment of your travel costs lump sum will be made directly to USDA. Please contact your regional office to obtain the details (name, telephone number, e-mail address, postal address...) of the person responsible for liaising with the Secretariat of the Co-operative Research Programme.

Please note that OECD financial rules are different from USDA rules and that consequently, we will pay USDA the equivalent in USD of the lump sum given in euros in your official letter of contract once the Secretariat of the Co-operative Research Programme has received your Summary Report.