

GUIDELINES FOR FAOBMB FELLOWSHIPS SCHEME

FAOBMB Travel Fellowships and FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships

Objectives of the FAOBMB Fellowships Scheme

FAOBMB Fellowships are awarded to contribute towards the travel and accommodation expenses of early career biochemists and molecular biologists from the FAOBMB region, in order to:

- a. Attend and present a research paper or poster at an FAOBMB sponsored function (Congress, Conference, Symposium or Workshop); **or**
- b. Spend a period of time in a host laboratory within the FAOBMB region, learning a particular technology, skill or technique of significance and relevance to the needs of the home country/institution.

Specific objectives of the Fellowships Scheme are to:

- Improve research skills and foster the transfer of technology in order to build capacity and capability to fulfil the scientific human resource needs of FAOBMB Constituent Member countries/regions.
- Enhance cooperation and collaboration within the FAOBMB region.
- In the case of FAOBMB Travel Fellowships, to enable the Fellowship recipient to gain a wider exposure to, and deeper appreciation of, research in biochemistry and molecular biology at an advanced international level, particularly as carried out in the FAOBMB region.
- In the case of FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships, to develop research linkages between the host institution and the home institution of the Fellowship recipient.

To achieve the above objectives, FAOBMB allocates funds for two types of Fellowship:

- (a) **FAOBMB Travel Fellowships** to enable early career scientists of not more than 40 years of age to attend and present their research work at an FAOBMB-sponsored Conference or Congress;
- (b) **FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships** to enable scientists of not more than 40 years of age from Constituent Member countries/regions to undertake collaborative research or learn particular skills from participating laboratories within the FAOBMB region.

Note that in some years, instead of Travel Fellowships, FAOBMB General YSP-Travel Fellowships will be offered to enable qualified PhD students in their late years of study and Postdoctoral scientists of not more than 35 years of age to attend the Pre-Congress Young Scientist Program and the FAOBMB Congress (or for other YSP programs associated with FAOBMB Conferences).

Constituent Members of FAOBMB (as of January 2014) are the societies and groups of biochemists and molecular biologists from the following countries or regions in the Asia and Oceania region: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hawaii, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Criteria for the award of a Travel Fellowship or Exchange Fellowship:

- (i) The candidate must be a member of a constituent Society or Group within FAOBMB. (A certification of membership from the Secretary or other responsible officer of the Constituent Member society must be attached to the application).
- (ii) The candidate is at an early stage of his or her career development, has a proven record of academic and intellectual achievement and shows strong potential for research.
- (iii) The candidate has submitted an application providing all requested information and documentation by the due date set out on the Application Form for the Travel Fellowships or at any time for the Exchange Fellowships.
- (iv) The date of birth of the candidate is no more than 40 years before the closing date of applications each year for the Travel Fellowships (or 35 years for YSP applications) or in the case of Exchange Fellowships the Chair of the Fellowships Committee must receive the completed application on or before the 40th birthday of the candidate.
- (v) Travel Fellowships will not be awarded to candidates who have previously received a FAOBMB Travel Fellowship and Exchange Fellowships will not be awarded to candidates who have previously received an FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship but previous receipt of one type of these Fellowships does not preclude award of the other type of FAOBMB Fellowship.
- (vi) Exchange Fellowships will not be awarded merely for the purposes of completing the requirements for the PhD degree, but require a properly structured program of research or technical training and the development of research linkages between the host institution and the home institution of the Fellowship recipient.

Additional information required for applications for Exchange Fellowships

Applicants for an Exchange Fellowship to undertake research and research-related activities in a host laboratory within the FAOBMB region will need to:

- Provide evidence of acceptance of the program of research or research-related activities and partial funding of expenses by the host institution;
- Provide a letter of support from the Head of the home institution/department of the applicant, preferably indicating that some financial support will be available;
- Provide a detailed activity plan and a budget for the period of the Fellowship, including details of supervision;
- Demonstrate the relevance and significance of the particular skill/technique to be acquired in the host laboratory and explain how the FAOBMB Fellow will utilize the newly acquired skills in the home institution and country.

Reports for Exchange Fellowships

Awardees of an FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship, within one month of the conclusion of the activities under the Exchange Fellowship, must submit a report to Council through the Chair of the Fellowships Committee on the activities carried out under the Fellowship. In addition, a report suitable for publicity must be provided to the Secretary General.

Administration of the FAOBMB Travel Fellowship and Exchange Fellowship Schemes

These awards shall be administered by the FAOBMB Fellowships Committee which shall also be responsible for the selection of the successful applicants, after a proper evaluation of the completed application forms in accordance with the criteria outlined above, for final approval by Council.

The FAOBMB Executive Committee may limit the number of FAOBMB Travel Fellowships and FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships awarded in any one year, subject to availability of funds to support these schemes.

The FAOBMB Fellowships Committee shall comprise the following:

- (i) The Chair, elected by the FAOBMB Council of Delegates.
- (ii) The FAOBMB Treasurer.
- (iii) The Chair of the Education Committee of FAOBMB.
- (iv) The Chair of the Organizing Committee of the Constituent Member hosting the FAOBMB Conference or Congress in that year, or nominee.
- (v) A member from the FAOBMB Region co-opted by the Fellowships Committee Chair.

Further Information:

Further information on the FAOBMB Fellowships Scheme can be obtained from the Chair of the FAOBMB Fellowships Committee.