

GUIDELINES FOR FAOBMB EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIPS

Objectives of the FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships Scheme

FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships are awarded to contribute towards the round trip travel and accommodation expenses of PhD students and early career biochemists, molecular biologists and biochemistry / molecular biology educationists from the FAOBMB region, to spend a period of time in a host laboratory (or for educationists, in a host institution) within the FAOBMB region, learning a particular technology, skill or technique of significance and relevance to advance the applicant's career.

Specific objective of the Exchange Fellowships Scheme:

The specific objective of the Exchange Fellowship Scheme is to improve research skills, technology transfer, the quality of education and collaboration within the FAOBMB region.

To achieve the above objectives, FAOBMB has made available the **FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships** (to be awarded annually, each not exceeding USD3,000) to enable registered PhD candidates or researchers / educationists of not more than 10 years post-PhD / MSc experience from Constituent Member countries/groups to undertake collaborative research or learn particular skills from participating laboratories and institutions within the FAOBMB region. The fellowships will be awarded for an exchange program lasting between 1 – 6 months.

Criteria for the award of an FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship:

- i. The candidate must be a member of a Constituent Society or Group within FAOBMB [*see Note 1 below*].
(A certification of membership from the Secretary or other responsible officer of the Constituent Member society must be attached to the application);
- ii. The applicant must currently (A) be registered as a PhD student at an institute of higher learning in an FAOBMB member country, OR (B) hold a position as post-doctoral fellow / researcher / educationist (within 10 years of completion of a PhD) at an institute of higher learning in an FAOBMB member country [*see Note 2 below*];
- iii. The candidate has a proven record of academic and intellectual achievement and shows strong potential for research and scholarship in biochemistry / molecular biology / or education in these scientific fields. The quality of the applicant's career accomplishments in research or educational practice and scholarship will be considered in relation to opportunity during the review process;
- iv. Registered PhD candidates must complete their exchange visit before submission of their thesis;
- v. Exchange Fellowships will not be awarded merely for the purposes of completing the administrative requirements for the PhD degree, but require a properly structured program of research, technical training or educational scholarship and the development of research / educational linkages between the host institution and the home institution of the Fellowship recipient.

- vi. For post-doctoral fellows / researchers / educationists, travel should commence within 4 months of the award being made. A fellowship cannot be used to supplement scientific visits or exchanges otherwise fully covered;
- vii. The candidate has submitted an application providing all requested information and documentation for the FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship. Applicants will need to:
 - provide a detailed activity plan and a comprehensive budget including incidental expenses for the period of the Fellowship, as well as details of other sources of support whether awarded or applied for;
 - provide a letter of support from the Head of the home institution/department of the applicant, indicating what the home institute's contribution, if any, will be towards the overall budget;
 - provide evidence of acceptance from the host institute of the program of research / education-related activities and details on supervision. This evidence should also indicate what the host institute's contribution will be towards the local expenses;
 - demonstrate the relevance and significance of the particular skill/technique or innovative educational practice to be acquired in the host laboratory or institution;
 - provide a short curriculum vitae with a list of publications.
- viii. The FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships will not be awarded to candidates who have previously received an FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship.

Reports for FAOBMB Exchange Fellowships

Awardees of the Exchange Fellowship are requested to submit a report suitable for publicity to be provided to the Secretary General within one month of the conclusion of the exchange visit.

Note 1: Constituent Members of FAOBMB (as of January 2024) are the national societies and groups of biochemists and molecular biologists from the following countries or regions in the Asia and Oceania region: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei China, Thailand and Vietnam.

Note 2: An application from a person not holding a PhD degree but holding an MSc degree may be considered if the person (i) has an outstanding research record OR (ii) is an educationist and his/her academic or professional position does not require a PhD degree.

Administration of the FAOBMB Exchange Fellowship Scheme

- The award shall be administered by the FAOBMB Fellowships Committee. Selection of the successful applicants will be the responsibility of the [FAOBMB Fellowships Committee](#) [and in the case of educationist applicants the [FAOBMB Education Committee](#)], 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 Exchange Fellowships awarded in any one year, subject to availability of funds to support these schemes.

Further information on the FAOBMB Fellowships Scheme can be obtained from the [Chair of the FAOBMB Fellowships Committee](#).