

Individual PhD scholarships – ITM-DGDC Framework Programme Call 2008

Concept

Each year the ITM awards three PhD fellowships to graduates from the ITM Master Courses who have shown outstanding scientific capacities. These fellowships are part of the third ITM-DGDC Framework Agreement Programme (2008-2013), which aims at capacity strengthening, knowledge management and collaborative research and training in developing countries.

This PhD fellowship scheme is based on individual merits, but candidates must be linked to a scientific institute or university in their country. The latter should not (yet) have a collaborative agreement with the ITM under the Framework Programme 2008-2013, as PhD tracks are an integrated part of the institutional development projects.

The doctoral research project will typically last four years. The scholarships are of the 'sandwich' type; 40% to 70% of the doctoral research time is spent in the home institute or country and the remainder at the ITM. For each candidate a promoter will be appointed at the ITM, at the home institute and at the university that will award the PhD.

Eligibility criteria

- Candidates should be an alumnus of one of the ITM Master programmes. Alumni of the Interuniversity Programme in Molecular Biology (IPMB) can apply on condition that they finished their Master thesis at the ITM (15 ECTS credits). Alumni of the European Master in International Health of the tropEd Network (www.tropEd.org) can apply on condition that they earned at least 12 ECTS credits at the ITM.
- Candidates should not be linked to a partner institute or university under the third ITM-DGDC Framework Agreement (*list in annex 1*).
- The promoters at the ITM and the home institute must be identified and committed.
- Candidates should be able to obtain the PhD degree before the age of 45.
- Candidates should be a citizen of a country eligible for DGDC-funded fellowships (*list in annex 2*).
- Candidates must be committed to spend at least 80% of their time on the doctoral research and training during the grant period.
- Candidates must submit a research proposal following the suitable guidelines and format (*annex 3*).

Grant

The grant includes a monthly living allowance for a period of maximum four years, insurances, family allowance, compensation for travel expenses and a bench fee to cover basic costs for training and research. The fellowship does not

imply an employment relationship between the ITM and the grantee.

Duration

The grant is allocated for a period of two years, with a renewal for another two years after a positive progress evaluation by the ITM PhD committee.

Evaluation criteria

All eligible applications will be examined by the ITM PhD committee. The selection will be based on:

- Scientific quality of the candidate
 - Study results and/or relevant research experience
 - Publications (quality and quantity)
 - Support letter of the ITM promoter and external references
- Scientific quality of the proposal
 - Quality and feasibility of the research plan
 - Relevance to health in developing countries
 - Coherence with ongoing research programmes at the home institute and the ITM
 - Potential output
- Contribution to capacity strengthening of the home country and/or institute

Application procedure and timeline

- Applications have to be prepared in close collaboration with the promoters according to the guidelines and research proposal format (annex 3)
- Deadline for submission: 30 November 2008
- Evaluation/ranking by the ITM PhD committee: 1 December-15 January 2009
- Decision by the Director's Committee: January-February 2009
- Final notification: March 2009
- Start of the PhD scholarship: 1 December 2009 at the latest

Contact

Applications have to be sent to Ann Verlinden, ITM Research Coordinator
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ANNEX 1: Partner Institutions under the third DGDC-ITM Framework Agreement

The 18 Partner Institutions from the 15 Institutional Collaboration projects of the third DGDC-ITM Framework Agreement are:

- Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale R.D. Congo (INRB)
- Labovet R.D. Congo
- Institut National d'Administration Sanitaire Maroc (INAS)
- Makerere University/Institute of Public Health, Kampala, Uganda (IPH-MU)
- PUCE Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador/ISP Instituto de Salud Pública, Quito, Ecuador (IPH-PUCE)
- Instituto Nacional de Higiene, Epidemiología y Microbiología, Havana, Cuba (INHEM)
- Instituto de Medicina Tropical Pedro Kourí, Havana, Cuba (IPK)
- Universidad Mayor de San Simón/Posgrado Medicina Tropical, Facultad de Medicina, Cochabamba, Bolivia (UMSS)
- Institute of Public Health Bangalore, India
- Sihanouk Hospital Centre of HOPE, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (SHCH)
- Tropical Diseases Research Centre, Ndola, Zambia
- Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia/Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt, Lima, Peru (IMTAVH)
- National Institute of Malariology, Parasitology & Entomology, Hanoi, Vietnam (NIMPE)
- National Center for Malaria Control, Parasitology and Entomology, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (NCCM)
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop, CHU Le Dantec/Laboratoire de Bactériologie Virologie, Dakar, Sénégal
- Faculty of Veterinary Science - University of Pretoria / Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases South Africa (DVTD)
- Centre International de Recherche-développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide, Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso (CIRDES)
- Centro Internacional de Zoonosis, Central University, Quito, Ecuador

ANNEX 2: List of countries eligible for DGDC-funded fellowships

List of countries

Bangladesh
Cambodia
China
India
Indonesia
Philippines

Brazil
Colombia
Cuba
El Salvador
Guatemala
Haiti
Nicaragua
Surinam

Burkina-Faso
Ethiopia
Guinea
Ivory Coast
Cameroon
Kenya
Madagascar
Zambia
Zimbabwe

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DGDC – Partner Countries

Algeria
Benin
Bolivia
Burundi
DR Congo
Ecuador
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Niger
Palestine areas
Peru
Rwanda
Senegal
Tanzania
Uganda
Vietnam
South Africa



Guidelines approved by the ITM Academic Council on 06-10-2004

Applications for the ITM PhD programme

under the ITM-DGDC agreement,

should include:

1. A PhD research proposal describing the hypothesis to be defended or refuted and indicating the material to be consulted, the theoretical principles to be utilized, the subject's academic and social importance and the feasibility of completing the thesis in the period of time allotted (max. 4 years); this plan is not binding and serves mainly to illustrate the candidates' ability to plan a research project
2. Two letters of recommendation and acceptance for supervision; one from a local promoter, one from an ITM promoter
3. The student's statement of reasons for undertaking PhD study and a short description of her/his present situation and employment
4. A CV and a transcript of records from higher education (graduate and postgraduate or master) studies
5. Toefl scores, French or Spanish language proof (for applicants, whose native language is not English, French or Spanish) if previous formal education has never been in the language planned for the research project. A passive knowledge of English allowing access to scientific literature in that language is a requirement for all applicants.
6. List of publications
7. One or two recent articles or chapters of a master's thesis, if no articles have been published.

Research proposal format: suggestions

Your application should contain a Core Text of maximum 3,000 words in which you describe your research plans. (The "Core Text" contains maximum 3,000 words for the items 1 through 6).

1. Title of the project
2. Give a brief description of your project (16 lines)
3. The research question (1000 words in total)
 - a) Description of the field of study and the existing body of knowledge, with reference to that: What we don't know? What has been neglected? The central object of the proposed research (600 words)
 - b) The core question. Which central question would you like to answer with the research? How do you unfold the central question into a number of sub-questions, so that the joint answers will generate the answer to the central question? Explanation per sub-question. Formulate examples of titles of articles that you expect could result from your research.
 - c) Which are the working hypotheses? Which prevailing theoretical principles allow the formulation of these hypotheses?

(400 words for the questions, sub-questions and explanation, and working hypotheses)

4. The data (800 words)
 - a) Describe the empirical and / or experimental data, i.e. the sources and methods, to be used for answering the research questions.
 - b) How do you intend to gather your data? Do you have whatever permission might be required? Have the necessary informants agreed to cooperate? Do you have access to the archives or samples you need?
5. The innovative character of the proposed project (130 words)

What is the significance of your thesis? Does it contain an original contribution to the field? Is it of specific social or scientific relevance?
6. Organizational context
 - a) Is your project related to the work of researchers or programme objectives of the ITM?
 - b) Which staff members would you like to have as your ITM promoter and maybe co-promoters?
7. List your publications that are relevant to the project
8. Provide a short and provisional bibliography
9. What is the proposed time schedule for the activities you propose?
10. If applicable: Draw up a budget of the expenses your research will require. How are these funds to be provided?
11. Which of the courses you have taken, what previous employment and other experience is relevant to an assessment of your ability to successfully complete the proposed project? Mention references, if any.