



*Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale*



International Centre for Genetic  
Engineering and Biotechnology

# **WE-STAR Fellowships**

## **PhD and Postdoctoral mobility scheme for WomEn ScienTists in AfRica**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Search here to find answers to your questions regarding Eligibility, Research Proposal and Application Procedure*

#### **Eligibility criteria**

Am I eligible for the WE-STAR Fellowship programme?  
In which host institute can I perform my fellowship period?

#### **Research proposal**

How to write my research proposal?  
Which areas of research are eligible for this call?  
When can I start my fellowship?

#### **Application procedure**

How to apply for a WE-STAR Fellowship position?  
How to contact ICGEB Group Leaders?  
Which documents are needed besides the project proposal?  
How to get a Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader?  
Who should I indicate as referees?

## Eligibility

### Am I eligible for the WE-STAR Fellowship programme?

Applicants must be **nationals of the following ICGEB Member States**: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Applicants may not apply for fellowships to be undertaken in their country of origin, unless working abroad at the time of application.

**Pre-doc and post doc researchers** may apply, although preference will be given to scientists having already completed their PhD or equivalent.

No age limit applies, but **preference** will be given to candidates **below the age of 45**.

Good working knowledge of **English** is mandatory.

### In which countries can I perform my fellowship period?

WE-STAR fellowships may take place at the **ICGEB laboratories located in [Trieste, Italy](#), [New Delhi, India](#) and [Cape Town, South Africa](#).**

At the beginning of the online application procedure, you will be requested to indicate for which ICGEB Component are you applying (Trieste, New Delhi or Cape Town).

## Research proposal

### How to write my research proposal?

Your proposal should contain:

- Title
- Abstract of your research (max 200 words)
- Brief description of your proposed research (max 1000 words and 1 image or table)
- Specific aims of the project (max 200 words)
- Cited literature (max 200 words)

Please make sure that the proposal targets skills and knowledge that will be useful for you and your Institute when you return home.

### Which areas of research are eligible for this call?

The research **proposal** should focus on your current research at your institute and be relevant to ICGEB research areas, namely **Health (Infectious Diseases and Non-Communicable Diseases), Sustainable and Effective Agriculture, Industrial Biotechnology and Renewable Energy**. Please, have a look at the webpage: <https://www.icgeb.org/science/> or see the active research groups at the Scientific Faculty pages ([ICGEB Trieste](#), [ICGEB Cape Town](#), [ICGEB New Delhi](#)).

### When can I start my fellowship?

In the application form, you will be requested to indicate the desired start date of your fellowship. This can be set tentatively from **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, in agreement with the host supervisor**. The fellowship has a duration of **minimum 6 months - up to 12 months**.

## Application procedure

### How to apply for a WE-STAR Fellowship?

To apply for a WE-STAR Fellowship, you shall create an account on ICGEB Service Gateway portal (<https://isg.icgeb.org/auth/login>) and complete all the required sections.

Before starting the application online, you shall contact the ICGEB Group Leader of your choice in Trieste, New Delhi or Cape Town, to verify interest and availability of the hosting group of your choice and define together the proposed research project. Please, indicate in the email subject your details according to the following format "WE-STAR Fellowship\_ Name\_Surname".

We strongly recommend sending your potential supervisor an email indicating why you are interested to join her/his group, including an updated CV and an outline of the proposed research project (2 pages maximum). Highlight your research experience, previous presentations and publications, what you expect to achieve through the fellowship. This will show that you are serious and well qualified. Do not send a general circular message as this is unlikely to be successful.

Kindly note that the written statement from the Group Leader who is willing to support your project is mandatory to apply for a fellowship at the ICGEB Components.

### How to contact ICGEB Group Leaders?

You can find the contact details of ICGEB Group Leaders on ICGEB website at the [Scientific Faculty](#) page. By clicking on the Group Leader name, you will find her/his e-mail address.

For ICGEB Group Leaders in TRIESTE, Italy: [ICGEB Trieste, Italy](#)

For ICGEB Group Leaders in NEW DELHI, India: [ICGEB New Delhi, India](#)

For ICGEB Group Leaders in CAPE TOWN, South Africa: [ICGEB Cape Town, South Africa](#)

### Which documents are to be provided besides the project proposal?

Documents	Notes
Project Proposal	Online form
Motivation letter	Online form, max 200 words
Written Statement from the Group Leader of the hosting lab	To be provided by the Group Leader and uploaded by the applicant
A Letter from 2 referees	To be included directly by the referees
Complete candidate CV in pdf, including publications if available	To be uploaded
A valid identification document (passport or identity card)	To be uploaded
English Certificate (TOEFL, Cambridge or similar)	To be uploaded, if available (Not requested when scholastic education has been undertaken in English)

### How to get a Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader?

First, you should contact the Group Leader you would like to work with to present a short project proposal and discuss possible start and end dates of your research visit. When writing to the Group Leader, please indicate in the email subject your details according to the following format "WE-STAR\_ Name\_Surname". After reaching an agreement on the proposed project, the Group Leader shall provide you with the written statement (by email).

In the meantime, create your account on the [ICGEB Service Gateway portal](#) and select the research group of your choice from the list. You shall upload the written statement previously received from the Group Leader in the attachments section of the application portal, before completing the submission procedure. The Group Leader will receive an automatic notification when the application has been submitted and verified.

**Who should I indicate as referees?**

You must provide the full name and valid email addresses of two (2) referees who can provide a letter of reference. At least one of these should be a member of the University or College you attended most recently.

The referees will receive an automatic notification from the application portal requesting to upload their letter of reference. They will be able to access the portal through the link provided in the notification email (no need for them to register to the portal), and then upload the letter.

You will not be able to view the letters of support, however you will be able to verify if the letters have been uploaded.

**IMPORTANT: once your application is completed, please do not forget to click on "Send" button (step 7) to finalise the application procedure and be able to upload the requested attachments.**