ICGEB International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology

ICGEB Arturo Falaschi Fellowship Programmes

Frequently Asked Questions

Search here to find answers to your questions regarding Eligibility, Applications, Certificates and more

Eligibility criteria

Can I apply if I am not a national of an ICGEB Member State?
No, applicants must be nationals of an ICGEB Member State.

I am a citizen of an ICGEB Member State, but I have lived in Australia for the past 9 years. Am I eligible to apply?
Yes, applicants must be nationals of an ICGEB Members States, regardless of the country they have lived in.

I belong to a Signatory Country. Can I still apply?
No, the programme is open only to nationals of full ICGEB Member States.

I have double citizenship. Am I eligible for an ICGEB fellowship?
Yes, as long as one of your nationality belongs to an ICGEB Member State.

I received my PhD more than 5 years ago, am I eligible for a long-term post-doc?
Yes, however please note that preference is given to candidates below the age of 35.

I will graduate after the March deadline. Can I still apply for a long-term PhD fellowship? Can I apply for a PhD fellowship even if I have not received my degree yet?
Yes, you may apply with the proviso that you obtain a BSc (Honours) degree (if you apply for Trieste) and an MSc degree (if you apply for New Delhi/Cape Town), before the start of the fellowship. Please provide, in lieu of the Bachelor/Master diploma, a certificate issued by your University, confirming when you will complete your Bachelor/Master studies and complete with a transcript of all the courses completed and the scores obtained.
Please note that in the event that your PhD application is positively evaluated by the Fellowships Committee, the award will be kept on hold pending to the completion of your Bachelor/Master studies and submission of the relevant certificates.

I will defend my PhD thesis after the March/September deadline. Can I still apply for a long-term post-doc fellowship?
Yes, you may apply with the proviso that you obtain your PhD degree before the start of the fellowship. Please provide, in lieu of the PhD certificate, a document issued by your University and confirming when you will complete your PhD studies.
Please note that, in the event that the Fellowships Committee positively evaluates your application, the award will be kept on hold pending to the completion of your PhD studies and submission of the relevant certificates.

Is there an age limit to apply?
Long-term PhD: There is no age limit.
Long-term Post-doc: There is no age limit, but preference is given to candidates below the age of 35. *Short-term PhD:* No age limit.
Short-term Post-doc: No age limit.
SMART: There is no age limit, however preference is given to young scientists at the beginning of their research career.

To apply for a short-term fellowship do I have to be part of a group in an ICGEB Member State or I can apply without having any lab association?
You need to be associated with a lab as short-term fellowships are meant to fund ongoing collaborative research between scientists from ICGEB Member States and research groups at the ICGEB laboratories in Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town.

Do I need to be enrolled in a PhD Programme (or at least accepted for one) to be eligible for the short-term pre-doc fellowships?
No, but preference is given to candidates already enrolled in a PhD Programme.

For the SMART Fellowship, does the applicant need to find a host laboratory on their own, or does ICGEB provide a list of pre-selected host institutions?
For the standard Arturo Falaschi call, ICGEB does not provide a list of pre-selected host laboratories. Applicants are expected to independently identify and contact a suitable host institution in one of the eligible countries. For specific programmes, applicants should consult the relevant calls to determine whether a list of host laboratories is provided.

Application / certificates

Do I have to provide Cambridge, IELTS or TOEFL certificates?
If available a TOEFL, Cambridge or similar certificate can be provided, although it is not mandatory (please however note that for Trieste PhD course this document may be requested by the enrolling Institutes). This document is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

Do I need to have my certificates translated into English and authenticated?
PhD: We request copy of the diploma certificates and transcripts (academic records) giving detailed information on all courses/final examinations completed, credit value or hours per course and grades received. All academic documents must be issued by the degree-granting University and bear the official seals and signatures and should be submitted in the original language accompanied by an official English translation of each document. Some institutions (i.e., Universities) issue original/official documents in English and these are acceptable.
We accept translations issued by the Institution or a professional translating service. Translations must be original and must include evidence of status and qualification to translate into English. Self-translated documents are not acceptable.
Translations must be literal (word-for-word) translation of each document. The translations must bear an original signature of the translator with date of completion.

Post-doc: PhD degree certificate, issued by the degree-granting University and bearing the official seals and signatures, they should be submitted in the original language accompanied by an official English translation.
Some institutions (i.e., Universities) issue original/official documents in English and these are acceptable.
We accept translations issued by the Institution or a professional translating service. Translations must be original and must include evidence of status and qualification to translate into English. Self-translated documents are not acceptable.
Translations must be literal (word-for-word) translation of each document. The translations must bear an original signature of the translator with date of completion.

SMART: not requested.

Is it mandatory to provide the English language proficiency certificate (TOEFL/IELTS) even if my education was in English?
The certificate is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

Application process

How should I submit my application?
The first essential step is to create an account at: https://isg.icgeb.org/auth/login
Applicants must then submit the application online via the dedicated portal (https://www.icgeb.org/activities/fellowship/)
The platform for submission is structured so that you can save your application anytime you wish before sending the full proposal. You can therefore prepare your application during several days, you do not need to connect to the portal and complete the submission all in one go.
The application process is divided in 7 steps (8 for the SMART fellowships), each step requires you to enter some mandatory data. Once you filled all the required data press the **"Next"/"Save"** button to proceed. You can return to the previous step by clicking the **"Back"** button.

How does the application process works?
1) Check the requirements for the fellowship you are interested in;
2) Make contact with the ICGEB Group Leader/PI of your choice with a motivation letter, to determine availability of laboratory space and to define the research project proposal that will form an integral part of the application;
3) Complete the online application form uploading all the necessary documents;
4) Request the persons you have indicated as referees to upload their letters via the link received by the application closing date.
You can submit **only one application**. If you don't upload the correct documents, you **cannot edit your submission**, and you'll have to wait for the **next call**.

How can I contact the ICGEB Group Leader to support my project?
Send your potential supervisor an email, including an updated CV and indicating why you are interested to join his/her group, and what general area you would be interested in working on. 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.

How can I get a written statement from my prospective supervisor? Is it mandatory to apply?
The written statement is mandatory and is the first and essential step to apply for an ICGEB fellowship. This document is an indispensable part of the application as it confirms the willingness of the supervisor to host you, availability of laboratory space and defines the research project proposal that will form an integral part of the application.

Do I have to select a supervisor from the ICGEB Group Leaders or am I allowed to select a supervisor from outside ICGEB?
PhD/Post-doc fellowships (short-/long-term) can be requested only for research to be carried out in one of the I*CGEB laboratories in Trieste (Italy), New Delhi (India) and Cape Town (South Africa). For these fellowships only ICGEB Group Leaders can be selected*. Please refer to the following link: https://www.icgeb.org/the-faculty/
IMPORTANT NOTE: For SMART fellowships supervisors outside the ICGEB must be chosen.

I have contacted a potential supervisor but have not received any reply.
If you receive no reply in about a week/ten days, please send a gentle reminder. Group Leaders are often traveling and may have urgent commitments/deadlines in the period you are contacting them. Ensure your mails are correctly addressed and personalised. Kindly note that the Fellowships Unit cannot contact the Group Leaders on your behalf.

Are there word/character limits for the application?
For some fields, a maximum number of words is allowed, as indicated in each section of the online application form.

What documents do I need to upload?
A list of the documents to be uploaded (pdf only) is available in the online application sections relevant to the individual fellowships:

PhD long-term:
(i) Your full CV

(ii) Academic records (diploma certificates and transcripts giving detailed information on all courses/final examinations completed, credit value or hours per course and grades received). Please note that all academic documents must be issued by the degree-granting University and bear the official seals and signatures and should be submitted in the original language accompanied by an official English translation of each document.
(iii) Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader
(iv) A valid identification document (passport or identity card)
(v) English Certificate (TOEFL, Cambridge or similar). This document is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

Post-doc long-term:
(i) Your full CV
(ii) Academic records (PhD degree certificate, issued by the degree-granting University and bearing the official seal/s and signatures, to be submitted in the original language accompanied by an official English translation of each document).
(iii) Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader
(iv) A valid identification document (passport or identity card)
(v) English Certificate (TOEFL, Cambridge or similar). This document is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

PhD short-term:
(i) Your full CV
(ii) Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader
(iii) A valid identification document (passport or identity card)
(iv) English Certificate (TOEFL, Cambridge or similar). This document is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

Post-doc short-term:
(i) Your full CV
(ii) Written Statement from the ICGEB Group Leader
(iii) A valid identification document (passport or identity card)
(iv) English Certificate (TOEFL, Cambridge or similar). This document is not required when English was the medium of instruction; however, the university must provide an official certificate attesting to this.

SMART PhD/Post-doc:
(i) Your full CV
(ii) The full CV of the Head of the Receiving Laboratory (complete with the list of his/her publications)
(iii) A valid identification document (passport or identity card)

Where should I upload the attachments?
The attachments are to be uploaded at the end of your application. This operation will be possible only after completing all the fields/sections. You will have to confirm your submission by clicking the green button "**send**" and you will be automatically directed to the Attachment section where to upload all the necessary documents.
Please note that the system does not foresee the possibility of attaching other documents other than those mandatory.

I have problems uploading my documents. What should I do?
You are allowed to upload one file for each field (max 50 MB per document as pdf only). For problems please contact support@icgeb.org

When am I expected to receive confirmation from ICGEB that my application has been received?
As soon as you complete your online application and confirm the submission you will receive an automatic notification confirming that your application has been received. This automatic message confirms only that your submission has been successful, not that your application has been admitted to the selection.
An e-mail of acknowledgment, confirming that your application is complete and admitted to the selection, is sent only after verification that all the requested documents have been provided. This verification process starts after the closure of the call and can take time based on the number of applications received. Please allow some time for the notification, as the verification of documents may take a while.

Do I need to contact the Liaison Officer for the endorsement (applicable for PhD and Post-doc long-term fellowships only)?
No, you do not need to contact the Liaison Officer, she/he will receive an automatic message with a link to access your application for assessment and endorsement. Please remember that the endorsement is a fundamental requirement for the Fellowship to be awarded

Where can I find more information about the research carried out at ICGEB?
Click here: https://www.icgeb.org/the-faculty/

Where can I find a list of the ICGEB Group Leaders?
Click here: https://www.icgeb.org/the-faculty/

Where can I find a list of the ICGEB Member States?
Click here: https://www.icgeb.org/governance/members-states/

How many calls are open each year?
Long-term PhD: one call only (deadline: 31 March, 23:59 CET)
Long-term Post-doc: two calls, one in March (deadline: 31 March, 23:59 CET) and one in September (deadline: 30 September, 23:59 CET)
Short-term PhD: two calls, one in March (deadline: 31 March, 23:59 CET) and one in September (deadline: 30 September, 23:59 CET)
Short-term Post-doc: two calls, one in March (deadline: 31 March, 23:59 CET) and one in September (deadline: 30 September, 23:59 CET)
SMART: two calls, one in March (deadline: 31 March, 23:59 CET) and one in September (deadline: 30 September, 23:59 CET)

Is ongoing collaboration between the applicant's lab and an ICGEB research group a mandatory requirement for the short-term fellowships?
Yes, a collaboration between the two laboratories must be established as part of the application.

May I apply for two different fellowships under the same call?
No, only one application per call is accepted for each candidate.

Can I apply again if my previous application has been rejected?
Yes, however you will need to complete a new application supported by updated documents.

When can I expect to receive the outcome from the ICGEB Fellowships Selection Committee?
Results are usually available within 2 months of the deadlines. However, depending on the number of applications received, this may take a bit longer. Please note that all applicants are contacted, successful and unsuccessful. Due to the high volume of applications we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback to all applicants at the end of the selection process.

If I am awarded an ICGEB pre-doc fellowship, when will I start the PhD programme?
For Trieste (Italy) the starting date is set for 1 October.
For New Delhi (India) the starting date is set for 1 August.
For Cape Town (South Africa) the starting date is set for 15 January.
More information will be provided by the Group Leader/supervisor and by the PhD Course Coordinator (where applicable).

Can I select the enrolling Institute for the PhD Programme?
At ICGEB New Delhi students are enrolled at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, while in ICGEB Cape Town students are enrolled with the University of Cape Town.
ICGEB Trieste has agreements with many academic institutions, including The Open University (UK), Nova Gorica University (Slovenia) and the University of Trieste (Italy). The decision regarding the enrolling Institute is jointly taken by the ICGEB Fellowships Committee with the student's supervisor.

Application/Letters of reference

How many reference letters are required for my application?
PhD/Post-doc long-term: your application must be supported by three (3) academic reference letters and at least one of these should be from a member of the University or College you attended most recently.
PhD/Post-doc short-term: your application must be supported by two (2) reference letters and at least one of these should be from a member of the University or College you attended most recently.
SMART: your application must be supported by two (2) reference letters and at least one of these should be from a member of the University or College you attended most recently.

Can I send the recommendation letters together with my application?
No, do not upload the reference letters, as they will not be considered. Please request your referees to upload their letters via the link received via email (from the address notifications@icgeb.org) by the application closing date.

My referees have not received the email with the link to upload their letters. What should they do?
It may be possible that the automatic email of request has been delivered to their SPAM mailbox. Ask them to check this mailbox. If no message is found, they should contact support@igeb.org

Will I be informed once the referees have submitted their letter of reference?
Applicants will receive an email once the referee upload his/her letter of reference.
Please make sure that the contact details of the referees are valid as the system will send an automatic message with a link where the referee can upload the recommendation letter.
You will be able to verify if the letters of support have been submitted through the ICGEB Service Gateway under the "My fellowships application" section and solicit the referees in case they have not yet provided this information.
Please note that you will not be able to view the letters of support only verify if they have been sent.

Financial support, benefits, duration

How much is the stipend for a short-term ICGEB fellowship?
PhD: Monthly stipend for Trieste (Italy) Euro 1,500; New Delhi (India) USD 1,122; Cape Town (South Africa) ZAR 16,500.
Post-doc: Monthly stipend for Trieste (Italy) Euro 2,300; New Delhi (India) USD 1,749; Cape Town (South Africa) ZAR 27,500.
SMART: The stipend for PhD fellowships is USD 1,500 per month, while the stipend for Postdoctoral fellowships is USD 2,000.

How much is the stipend for a long-term ICGEB fellowship?
PhD: Monthly stipend for Trieste (Italy) Euro 1,500; New Delhi (India) USD 1,122; Cape Town (South Africa) ZAR 16,500.
Post-doc: Monthly stipend for Trieste (Italy) Euro 2,300; New Delhi (India) USD 1,749; Cape Town (South Africa) ZAR 27,500.

Do I have to pay for my own health insurance?
Medical health insurance coverage is provided by ICGEB for the entire duration of the fellowship.

Do I have to book and pay for my travel abroad?
No, the fellowship includes provision for travel expenses from the participant's home country to the ICGEB lab at the beginning of the fellowship and a return travel provision upon completion of the fellowship. Please do not book and pay for your travel by your own as it will not be reimbursed.

Is there any provision for family members?
ICGEB makes no financial provision, nor can it provide administrative support for family members of the participants in the programme.

How are the procedures to find accommodation?
ICGEB Trieste: ICGEB Trieste has no housing service or accommodation facilities. However, fellows will be provided with a list of possible contacts that offer housing options in Trieste.
For ICGEB New Delhi a Guest House is run on campus, on a twin-share basis, for a nominal rate. New Delhi personnel will book the accommodation on the fellow's behalf.
For ICGEB Cape Town accommodation support is provided and arrangements are agreed prior arrival.

What is the duration for a long-term pre-doc fellowship?
Pre-doc fellowships are awarded for 3 years with the possibility of a 1-year extension (subject to request of the Supervisor and the availability of the funds).

What is the duration for a long-term post-doctoral fellowship?
Post-doc fellowships are usually awarded for 2 years with the possibility of a 1-year extension (subject to request of the Supervisor and the availability of the funds). It is possible to award fellowships for 1 year only.

What is the duration for a short-term pre-doc fellowship?
Short-term pre-doc fellowships are awarded for a period between 1 to 12 months maximum.

What is the duration for a short-term post-doc fellowship?
Short-term post-doc fellowships are awarded for a period between 1 to 6 months maximum.

What is the duration for a SMART fellowship?
SMART fellowships are awarded for a period between 3 to 9 months maximum.

Can short-term fellowships be extended?
No, the duration of the short-term fellowships (including the SMART fellowships) cannot be extended.

Is it possible to modify the starting date indicated in the original application?
The starting date is usually agreed upon with the prospective supervisor and it should take into consideration the time needed for the selection and approval of the application and that to get all the necessary travel documents (such as visa, if applicable). In the event of serious and unforeseen circumstances, it can be modified, in agreement with the supervisor and the Fellowships Unit.
Please remember that for long-term pre-doc fellowships the starting date coincides with the commencement of the PhD Programmes.

For short-term fellowships please indicate the proposed fellowship starting date agreed with your host lab. Please note that this date may need to be changed by ICGEB if, at the time of award, there is not sufficient time to prepare all the necessary documents for the fellowship. Try not to plan a starting date too close to the deadline for online applications; allow a minimum of 4 months.

Is there a provision for reagents and consumables allotted for ICGEB fellowships?
Provisions for the reagents and consumables are available from the budget of the ICGEB group hosting the fellow.