



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Young Researchers Award

Call for Proposals

1. Purpose

The GBIF Governing Board has established the Young Researchers Award to foster innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics by graduate students in master's and doctoral programmes at universities in GBIF Voting and Associate Participant countries¹.

2. Eligibility and Award

Graduate students in a masters or doctoral programme at a university in a GBIF Voting Participant or Associate Participant Country are eligible to submit a proposal to the GBIF Young Researcher Award programme. This year, the programme intends to make two awards of **4000 Euros** each, one to a master's student and one to a doctoral student.

3. Proposal Submission

Graduate students intending to submit a proposal should either contact their National Head of Delegation² (find contact details under Participant representatives in the links below) or their National Node Manager³ for further information.

Countries have organised their call in different ways. The Secretariat has received information from the following countries where interested students could enquire about the call:

Australia: Head of Delegation: John La Salle

Canada: Member of delegation Robert McFetridge

Netherlands: the Dutch National Node: NLBIF Node Manager Cees Hof.

Applicants may be a citizen of any country, not necessarily the country of the nominating Participant.

Proposals will be reviewed and prioritised at the national level and will thereafter be submitted to GBIF by the Head of Delegation of any GBIF Voting or Associate Participant Country. *No more than two proposals may be submitted by any Head of Delegation.*

¹ <http://www.gbif.org/governance/governing-board/current-participants/>

² <http://www.gbif.org/communications/directory-of-contacts/governing-board-of-gbif/>

³ <http://www.gbif.org/communications/directory-of-contacts/nodes-committee/>

4. Content of the application

- A research proposal in English with the follow documents all in electronic format:
 - **A Project Description** (4 pages maximum) - and a 200 word summary - detailing:
 - (i) the need for the research;
 - (ii) the question(s) being addressed;
 - (iii) **the critical role of GBIF-enabled data in addressing those questions;**
 - (iv) the research scope, plan, methodologies and timetable
 - **A Budget** (1 page), itemised and justified; NOTE: budgetary items are restricted to academic fees, essential equipment, supplies (e.g., hardware, software) and travel; salary support is not permitted.
 - **Literature Cited** (1 page)
 - The applicant's **curriculum vitae**

Accompanying document to the proposal:

- An official letter from the student's faculty mentor/supervisor certifying that the applicant is a student in good standing in the graduate programme of the university.
- At least one, and no more than three, letters of support from faculty members active in a field that encompasses and incorporates biodiversity informatics⁴ (e.g., genetic, species, ecological, biosystematics, etc).

5. **Deadline for national submission of applications: 15 September 2010**

The National Head of Delegation or the National Node Manager to provide information as where and how to submit applications.

6. **Nomination package to be sent to the GBIF Secretariat**

After a review of proposals Heads of Delegations are to forward the two selected applications fulfilling the criteria under item 3 to the Secretariat by 1 October 2010 as candidates for the final selection.

Proposal Review and Award

The GBIF Science Committee⁵ will review received nominations and adjudicate the Young Researchers Awards. Process to be concluded before the end of 2010.

Review criteria for the proposed research include: its originality and innovation; its use of and strategic significance for GBIF- enabled data and its measureable effectiveness and impact in advancing biodiversity informatics.

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_Informatics

⁵ <http://www.gbif.org/governance/advisory-committees/science-committee/>

Declined proposals may be revised and re-submitted in subsequent competitions for the Young Researcher Award.

Awardees are expected to disseminate research results via peer-reviewed publications, presentations at professional meetings, and other media, citing GBIF support.