

FAQ UNTBLDC – TWAS – ICGEB Programme of Collaborations with LDCs – PACTs

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1. Who is eligible for the Programme?

Only scientists from [Least Developed Countries](#) (Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Dem. Rep., Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia), who hold **at least a MSc**, are **45 years old or younger**, can apply.

Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

2. What research areas can I apply for a Fellowship position?

Broadly, PACTS Programme covers the following research macro-areas: Infectious Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases, Medical Biotechnology, Plant Biology and Biotechnology, and Industrial Biotechnology and Renewable Energy.

In order to process your application, you need to refer to the specific research areas active at each ICGEB site (Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town) to select the research laboratory that most suits your research interests. Accordingly, you may opt for the South-North or the South-South Programme. Please note, ICGEB laboratories are divided by location not by research area on the ICGEB website.

3. How can I apply for a Fellowship position?

To apply for the UN Technology Bank - TWAS - ICGEB Fellowship Programmes, you must create an account on the TWAS Online Platform, by clicking on “Apply Now” at the end of the call (see links below).

South North Programme – ICGEB Trieste

<https://twas.org/opportunity/untbldc-twas-icgeb-south-north-programme-exchanges-and-collaborations>

South-South Programme - ICGEB Cape-Town or New Delhi

<https://twas.org/opportunity/untbldc-twas-icgeb-south-south-programme-exchanges-and-collaborations>

We strongly recommend that you follow the steps outlined here below:

1. Read carefully all the requested information to prepare your application and take note of the maximum allowed number of characters **in the TWAS Online Portal**
2. Examine carefully the fields of research/investigation at the selected host institute, then focus on the work of the Principal Investigators (PIs) in your research field (we recommend that you focus on 1-3 PIs and read some of their background work and papers to better understand what would be a good match with your research interests)
3. Based on your preliminary evaluation, select your preferred PI to express an interest in the fellowship position and contact them by email including a draft research proposal for your visiting period at the ICGEB, mentioning UNTBLDC-TWAS-ICGEB South-South (for New Delhi or Cape Town) or South-North (for Trieste) Programme
4. Together with the PI you will discuss the research proposal and decide together on the possible duration (up to 6 months) and expected starting date of your fellowship.
6. If the laboratory can host you to carry out your research, the PI will provide you with an invitation letter to be uploaded in the application portal.

Please note that the invitation letter does not constitute a guarantee to the Applicant that he/she will be selected and admitted for the fellowship position.

4. How can I contact the ICGEB Principal Investigators (PIs)?

You can find ICGEB PI’s contact on ICGEB website, under “[Scientific Faculty](#)”. By clicking on the PI name, you will find his/her e-mail address.

TRIESTE, Italy - [ICGEB Trieste, Italy – Headquarters](#)

NEW DELHI, India - [ICGEB New Delhi, India](#)

CAPE TOWN, South Africa - [ICGEB Cape Town, South Africa](#)

5. How can I get a Letter of Invitation from the Host Institute?

First contact the Principal Investigator (PI) you would like to work with, present a short project proposal and discuss possible start and end dates of your research visit. If the laboratory can host you / has space and resources available for you to conduct your research project, the PI will send you an invitation letter to be uploaded in the application portal.

6. How do I write my research proposal?

The research proposal should focus on your current research at your institute and be relevant to ICGEB research areas:

ICGEB Cape Town: Parasitic Diseases (tuberculosis, African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis and helminthic infections); Human viral diseases (emerging viruses); Cancer; Biopesticides; Systems Biology.

ICGEB New Delhi: Agricultural biotechnology (Crop improvement, biotic and abiotic stress resistance); Human Viral Diseases (dengue, tuberculosis, Covid19 etc.); Human Parasitic Diseases (Malaria); Recombinant Diagnostics & Vaccines development; Cancer; Biofuels.

ICGEB Trieste: Non communicable diseases (cardiovascular disorders; cancer; immunology; neurodegeneration; genetic disease); Human viral diseases (dengue, chikungunya, zika, tick-borne encephalitis viruses, Covid19); Biotherapeutics and Biosimilars; Plant biotechnology and microbiome studies; Computational Biology.

Your proposal should contain:

- title
- abstract
- background (identify gaps and questions)
- objectives of the planned research
- methodology
- expected output(s)
- feasible timescale of work
- references

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

For any additional information please contact: grants@icgeb.org

7. I have more questions about the Programme? Whom should I contact?

For additional inquiries or questions related to the programme and requirements, please contact:

- **Mr. Moshe Kao**, Programme Management Officer, UNTBLDC | E: moshe.kao@un.org
- **Dr. Max Paoli**, TWAS Programme Coordinator | E-mail: mpaoli@twas.org
- **Ms. Martina Viviani**, ICGEB Fundraising, Technology Transfer & Innovation Officer | E-mail: grants@icgeb.org

8. Whom should I contact for questions related to the Application Portal?

For questions related to the Application Portal, please contact: **Ms. Fabrizia Niscio** | E-mail: f.niscio@unesco.org

V2, 09 July 2021