

45th Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (JSC)

27-30 May 2024

DEADLINE: 1 May

Instructions

Overarching content/goal: *To provide an update on progress made during the last year, as well as your future plans, and highlight any aspects that you want to bring to the attention of the JSC.*

- *The length of the report should be kept to around 4 pages if possible (appendices and links can of course be used).*
- *Include the topics indicated below.*
- *Work with the WCRP secretariat responsible for your activity, in the preparation of the report and/or presentation.*

Report to the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee

WCRP Task Team on Fellowships

“Enhancing science leadership in Least Developed Countries”

Objective

The WCRP Fellowship program is designed to provide early to mid-career scientists from Least Developed Countries with the opportunity to develop their own research activities and strengthen climate research in their own region. The program will cover a wide range of scientific questions addressed in the WCRP Science and Implementation Plan, as formulated through the priorities of WCRP activities (Core Projects and Lighthouse Activities). It will prioritise research questions addressing either the multidimensional perspective of WCRP research activities and/or the challenges to produce relevant and actionable climate information that fulfils the specific regional societal needs for a sustainable future.

The Fellowship Calls

- Each year, about 50k CHF will be allocated to the fellowship program to support 1 to 3 fellowships
- A specific call will be issued each year. It will highlight either a range of eligible topics or a Global South region that will be eligible for the fellowship.
- The call will be issued by the WCRP secretariat

- A JSC task team will be in charge of the fellowship program. Members will be composed of 3 JSC members (including the chair or vice-chair as chair), and 2 additional members appointed as representatives of Core Projects (CPs), Lighthouse Activities (LHAs) and the Academy.
- The call will build on consultation between the JSC and WCRP core activities (CP, LHA and Academy).
- Core activities will submit proposals as part of their annual reporting. These proposals (no more than 1/2 page) will only provide topics for which there are either opportunities or needs that have been identified, or any relevant activities within the framework of the fellowship
- Proposals will be evaluated by the JSC task team. The emerging priorities will then be presented by the task team for discussion at the full JSC meeting
- Final approval will be made by the JSC.

Proposals

- Proposal should remain short, in line with the Terms of reference and guidelines for eligible funding (see selection criteria below)
- It is highly recommended that applicants engage with WCRP activities to prepare their proposal
- The Secretariat will serve as the main point of contact for the applicants and act as liaison between potential collaborators within WCRP and the applicants

Funding

- The funding is dedicated to the fellow's research. It cannot exceed 50k CHF
- It can cover salary (total or part thereof), travel and subsistence for visits, or participation in workshop/conference directly related to the research topic
- The proposal should justify the different costs, following WMO rules.
- The proposal must be supported by a host institution that is willing to host the fellow full time over the entire duration of the fellowship. Only such fellowships will be considered.
- Co-funding with a WCRP/WMO partner is possible

Selection

- Applications will be evaluated by a fellowship selection committee through a two-step process. The first step will shortlist candidates for an oral interview, based on the proposed project and the candidate's CV.
- The composition of the committee is independent from the JSC Task team in charge of the program, even if some of the members can belong to both. It will include a 2-3 JSC members (including the chair, or vice chair or one of the officers as chair of the committee) + 1 members from Academy and 2-3 topic specialists from CP and LHA and from external partners chosen for their expertise with regards to the call priorities. The members of this committee will be revisited each year.
- Selection criteria will consider research originality, candidate CV, productivity and potential leadership of the candidate, as well as how likely the candidate will benefit from the fellowship program and contribute to WCRP's objectives.

- The evaluation metrics will be published as guidelines for the preparation of the application package and to ensure transparency of the selection process.

Application package content

- Research proposal
- CV
- Personal statement addressing how the fellowship will benefit the applicant
- Letters of support from the WCRP activities
- Letter of support from the host institution where relevant

Applications need to be written in English, but exception can be made upon request. Time lines

- April/ May - Decide topics
- June/July - Open call for Fellowship
- Oct/Nov - Close call
- Selection committee decision - Jan/Feb (by mid Feb) the following year
- Awarded as per proposal (consider administrative issues) – Could start by April/May/June of the fellowship year

Annex

An example of metrics for selection (need to be refined, provided here)

1. Research Originality (25 points):

- Novelty and uniqueness of the research proposal; (10 points)
- Potential for significant contributions to the field (15 points)

2. Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (20 points)

- Academic qualifications and achievements (10 points)
- Relevant research experience and publications (10 points)

3. Productivity and Potential Leadership (30 points)

- Demonstrated ability to produce high-quality research outputs (10 points)
- Evidence of leadership skills and potential for future leadership roles (10 points)
- Ability to work collaboratively and effectively in a team environment (10 points)

4. Alignment with WCRP Objectives (15 points)

- Relevance of the proposed research to WCRP's goals and priorities (10 points)
- Potential for the candidate's research to contribute to WCRP's objectives (5 points)

5. Benefit from the Fellowship Program (10 points)

- Likelihood of the candidate's growth and development through the fellowship experience (5 points)

- Potential for the candidate to make significant contributions to the program (5 points)

Scoring Guidelines (as an example to be further discussed):

90-100 points: Excellent candidate, strongly recommended for the fellowship

80-89 points: Very good candidate, recommended for the fellowship

70-79 points: Good candidate, consider for the fellowship

60-69 points: Average candidate, may need additional evaluation

Below 60 points: Candidate does not meet the criteria for the fellowship

Total: 100 points