



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Young Researchers Award

Call for Proposals 2011

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 Country¹ 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.

Proposal Submission

- Research proposals must clearly demonstrate *how data enabled by GBIF* is being incorporated in the work. To understand more about GBIF- enabled data, students should contact their academic advisors, the GBIF national node of their country, the GBIF Secretariat or members of the Science Committee.
- Applicants may be a citizen of any country, not necessarily the country of the nominating Participant.
- Guidelines for where students should submit their proposals, and the deadline for submission, will be announced by the National Delegations.

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

- 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.

3. Content of the application

- A research proposal in English with the follow documents in electronic format:
 - **A Project Description** (a strict 4-page maximum using font size 12) - and a 200 word summary - detailing:
 - (i) the need for the research;
 - (ii) the question(s) being addressed;
 - (iii) **the critical role of existing 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 including full contact information at your home institution.

Accompanying documents 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 informatics² (e.g., genetic, species, ecological, biosystematics, etc).

4. Nomination packages (see section 3) of max 2 nominations, are to be sent to the GBIF Secretariat by the Heads of Delegations by

15 March 2011 at midnight (Copenhagen).

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² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_Informatics

5. Send nomination packages in electronic form to:

youngresearchersaward@GBIF.org

Proposal Review and Award

- a. The GBIF Science Committee³ will review the nominations and adjudicate the Young Researchers Awards. Process to be concluded by May 2011 and announced at the Governing Board meeting in October.
- b. 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 and/or the conservation of biological diversity.
- c. Declined proposals may be updated and re-submitted in subsequent competitions for the Young Researcher Award.
- d. Awardees are expected to disseminate research results via peer-reviewed publications, presentations at professional meetings, and other media, clearly acknowledging GBIF support.

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