



Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)

Young Researchers Award

Call for Proposals 2015

1. Purpose

The GBIF Governing Board has established the Young Researchers Award to foster innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics by graduate students who are deploying GBIF-enabled data in master's and doctoral studies.

2. Student eligibility, awards and proposal submission

Graduate students must be enrolled in a masters or doctoral programme at a university to be eligible to submit a research proposal to the GBIF Young Researcher Award programme. Students must apply through and be nominated by a Head of Delegation (HoD) of a GBIF Participant country. The list of GBIF Participants is available at:

<http://www.gbif.org/contact/directoryofcontacts>.

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.

The National Delegations of Participant countries are expected to announce where students should submit their research proposals, and the deadline for submission to the Head of Delegation.

3. Submission procedure and deadline

Student proposals will be reviewed and prioritized at the national level. A **maximum of two proposals** may be submitted to the GBIF Secretariat by the **Head of Delegation** of any GBIF Voting or Associate Participant country. Proposals must be submitted by the GBIF Head of Delegations to the following e-mail address youngresearchersaward@GBIF.org. **The deadline for submissions of proposals is 3 March 2015.**

Heads of Delegations must ensure that their submissions include the elements listed under paragraph 4 below. Submissions of incomplete proposals will not be considered.

4. The research proposal and nomination packet

Students should prepare their research proposal according to the following

format:

- a. **Project Summary** (200 words)
- b. **Project Description** (maximum 5 pages, 12 point font) that describes
 - 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.** Research proposals must clearly demonstrate *how data enabled by GBIF* is being incorporated in the study. 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;
 - iv. the research scope, plan, methodologies, relevant literature citations and timetable
- c. **Budget** (1 page), itemized and justified. NOTE: budgetary items are restricted to academic fees, essential equipment, supplies (e.g. hardware, software) and travel; **salary support is not permitted.**
- d. **Curriculum vitae** of the student applicant including full contact information at the home institution.
- e. **Supporting documents**
 - i. 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.
 - ii. At least one, and no more than three, letters of support from established researchers active in a field that encompasses and incorporates biodiversity informatics (e.g., genetics, species composition and traits, biogeography, ecology, systematics, etc.), see more at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_informatics.

5. GBIF Proposal Review and Award

The GBIF Science Committee

(<http://www.gbif.org/contact/directoryofcontacts#science>) will review the nominations and adjudicate the Young Researchers Awards by June 2015, with announcement of the awardees at the Governing Board meeting in the autumn of 2015 in Madagascar.

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.

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

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

Information about the award and previous years' awardees can be found at:
<http://www.gbif.org/newsroom/opportunities#yra>.