

ICUB FELLOWSHIPS FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS. INFORMATION PACKAGE

General description

The main aim of the Research Institute of the University of Bucharest (ICUB) is to promote excellence in research and a competitive interdisciplinary environment. Each year, the ICUB offers postdoctoral fellowships for young researchers. The fellowships are awarded for a period of 3 to 12 months to young researchers with an excellent track-record.

Estimated results

- A significant increase in the quality and quantity of the publications output by affiliated members of the University of Bucharest;
- The creation of a competitive interdisciplinary environment that encourages the development of institutional culture specific for an institute of advanced studies;
- The development of competitive groups or networks of researchers who will apply for future national or international research grants.

Who can apply

Candidates within five years of receiving their PhD (at the time of application) who have already proven their ability to work successfully as independent researchers.¹ For researchers holding two PhDs, the PhD relevant to the research field of the application will be taken into account. The fellowships are mainly addressed to candidates who do not already have a permanent job in research or higher education and it involves fulltime working at the ICUB. Candidates who have a work contract with the University of Bucharest are not eligible. Candidates who have permanent positions in other institutions will have to provide an agreement from their institution stating the support for their research activity as ICUB fellows.

Fellowship terms

- Stipend: 2500 lei/ month.

¹See below the minimum eligibility criteria.

- Awards may include travel expenses for fellows from abroad (the equivalent of one round air travel economy class) and a living allowance (up to 1200 lei/ month). In order to receive the living allowance, the fellows must present the relevant documents (lease agreement, invoice, etc).
- Fellows will be able to use the infrastructure of the institute (institutional email address, conference room, computers, scientific databases, etc.) and will have workspace in the premises of the ICUB.
- They will be full members of the institute during their stay in Bucharest and will take active part in the academic life of ICUB.
- Fellows will benefit from logistic support in case they aim to apply for other grants and research programs.
- Fellows are expected to organize scientific events (workshops, conferences, symposia, etc.). ICUB will provide technical and logistic support for these activities.

The obligations of the fellows

- To not be part of another postdoctoral research grant or to receive another postdoctoral fellowship during the implementation of the project within the ICUB.
- To take part in the academic life of the ICUB through:
 - Participating in the regular meetings organized by the research division hosting them;
 - Presenting their research results in the regular seminars of the ICUB division hosting their projects.
- To mention the affiliation to ICUB on each conference, talk or paper submitted for publication during the fellowship. To mention the affiliation to ICUB in the Acknowledgements section of their work or to mention this in the publications submitted after the end of the fellowship, but written based on the research carried out in Bucharest.
- To submit papers for publication in international journals (ISI, SCOPUS, or ERIH) or in collections/ edited volumes (published by prestigious publishing houses). Minimal requirements: at least 1 paper for a 3-6 months fellowship, and at least 2 papers for a 7-12 months fellowships.
- To deliver a detailed report of their research activity before the end of the fellowship.

Fellowship announcement

The fellowships are announced on the ICUB website and on specialized lists. There is no deadline; however applications submitted between 1 January and 31 May will be evaluated in the October/November panel, and the applications submitted between 1 June and 31 December will be evaluated in the April/May panel. The applications can be submitted via e-mail throughout the entire year at office@icub.unibuc.ro, specifying the ICUB division the application is sent to. Please specify the length of your planned stay in Bucharest (minimum 3 months, maximum 12 months). The planned length of your stay will be taken into consideration in the selection process.

The application submission system

The application will consist in the following:

- The application form (available on the ICUB website);
- CV and list of publications;
- Proof of PhD defense or copy of the PhD certificate;
- Sample writing (maximum 3 published articles/papers/patents);
- The name, e-mail address and phone numbers of three professors/scholars who can write letters of recommendation for the candidate (the letters will be e-mailed by the referees directly to ICUB, at office@icub.unibuc.ro, if the letters are not sent in the requested time, the application is not eligible);
- The research project (maximum 5 pages; bibliography counts separately);
- For research projects involving experimental work or laboratory access, a preliminary agreement on behalf of the department chair/laboratory director/project director is needed.

The selection system

- 1. Verification of the eligibility criteria.** The verification of the eligibility criteria is done within 2 weeks after receiving each application. If the file is not complete, the selection process will not continue. The following aspects are verified:

The candidate must meet the following minimum criteria:

- To hold a PhD from a prestigious university (university of advanced research), completed within the last five years (at the time of application);

- To have at least 3 papers published as main author/ corresponding author, or without the participation of the PhD supervisor, in prestigious international journals (ISI/ SCOPUS/ ERIH) or in edited volumes published with international publishing houses. For those who defended their thesis in the previous 12 months, the minimum requirement is to have at least one article published as a main author/ corresponding author, or without the participation of the PhD supervisor and other articles submitted for publication in ISI/ SCOPUS/ ERIH journals or edited volumes published with international publishing houses;
 - To be an active voice in the international academic community (participation in international conferences with peer-review system, international symposia, or seminars).
 - The candidate will submit the names and email addresses of three professors/scholars who can write letters of recommendation. The application will be eligible if at least 2 letters are received in 2 weeks after the submission.
- 2. The application is evaluated in a peer-review process** (at least 2 expert evaluators for each project). The evaluation period lasts approximately 4-6 weeks.

As soon as the applications are received, and the eligibility criteria are verified, they will be sent to expert evaluators. The projects will be evaluated through a *peer-reviewing* system by at least 2 evaluators specialized in the field of the research project. The projects will be evaluated with a grading system (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D). In a point system, the equivalents are: 10=A+; 9=A; 8=A-; 7=B+; 6=B; 5=B-; 4=C+; 3=C; 2=C-; 1=D. The applications evaluated with A-, A, and A + (scoring an average of 8, or above) will be proposed for selection.

In the evaluation, the following aspects will be considered: the research profile of the candidate (research experience abroad is an advantage), the quality and potential of the project (the project is clearly formulated and shows a good knowledge of the research field), as well as the feasibility of the project in the allotted time and within the institutional framework of the ICUB (there is a solid justification of how the project can be carried out in Bucharest, in one of the four divisions of ICUB).

- 3. The final selection of successful applications will be done in a panel of minimum 3 experts.** The panel meets twice a year, in April/ May and October/ November. Each division of the ICUB decides if the panel includes an interview with the researchers.

The final list will be approved by the General Director of the ICUB and the Rector of the University of Bucharest.

The names of the candidates accepted for postdoctoral fellowships will be published on the ICUB website.