Global Development Hub Fellows Fund

Guidance for Host Supervisors

**Background**

The Global Development Hub Fellows Fund intends to support high impact, short term placements for PhD students who are permanent residents of Least Developed and Lower Middle Income Countries, as specified by the DAC List of ODA Recipients 2024-25) in labs at Imperial College London.

With support of their PhD supervisor, and a host supervisor at Imperial, students residing and studying in one of the eligible countries will have the opportunity to spend between 2 and 4 months at the College.

Placements must be completed before **31 March 2025.**

The goals of the programme are to:

* Develop new skills, experimental techniques and/or methodologies through access to commentary training and laboratories not available at the home institution;
* Take part in activities to enhance their professional competencies and expertise through international and interdisciplinary teamwork;
* Add value to the PhD experience by providing students the opportunity to develop as internationally mobile and globally minded scientists.

Participants will enhance:

* their ability to work collaboratively on research ideas;
* their ability to network and communicate effectively and with impact in interdisciplinary and intercultural teams;
* their intercultural and international competency and awareness;
* their creativity to develop collaborative research ideas;

The PhD research project must be ODA compliant. \*

*\*For spend to be eligible as Official Development Assistance (ODA) its****primary purpose must be to benefit a country****(or more than one country) on the*[*OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) lis*](https://www.oecd.org/dac/)*t.*

*The ‘benefit’ should be something that****promotes and specifically targets****the economic development and welfare of the DAC country(ies).*

**Finance and Support**

The fund will provide:

* A non-taxable stipend of £1,603 per calendar month
* A one-off £500 payment on arrival in the UK
* Return economy class travel
* Payment for the visa application and Biometrics Residence Permit
* Financial support for travel to the visa application centres

Please note, only individuals are eligible for the funding, dependents will not be supported. Stipend/welcome payment cannot be paid to the student until they have activated a UK bank account.

Students are expected to arrange their own accommodation in London for the duration of their stay.

Departments are expected to waive tuition fees for these placements. In recognition of the additional costs associated with hosting a visiting student, researchers will receive £1000 towards consumables.

**Finding a host supervisor**

Potential applicants should browse the College’s webpages to review the potential host department/institutes, based on what best aligns with their PhD research focus. Applicants should then contact academics directly to explore the possibility of a placement.

If you are happy and willing to host a student, you are asked to provide a Letter of Support, detailing suitability of the training, and support that will be provided. This must be co-signed by the Head of Department. Please note, the letter MUST detail confirmation that the applicant possesses a sufficient level of English to carry out the placement and that the department has agreed to waive fees.

We encourage preexisting links between collaborators at international institutions and Imperial to explore the possibility of a student placement.

Please note, Imperial supervisors can only host one student placement per year through this scheme.

**Expectations of the host supervisor**

The host department is responsible for the student once they have arrived in London. The host supervisor should make necessary arrangements with administrative/support staff in the department as required to ensure the student is set up for their first day. This includes day one safety forms/inductions and College ID cards. The IRO will arrange for the stipend to be paid to the student. Consumables budgets will be managed by the department.

**Additional Information**

Please contact the College’s International Relations Office for further support or advice: [international.relations@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:international.relations@imperial.ac.uk)

College-wide guidance on hosting visiting students can be found here: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/placements/information-for-imperial-college-staff/hosting/>

All students will be classified as ‘occasional students’ at the College. This is the term used by the College for visiting students, studying at the College for short periods.

Some students will need to apply for an ATAS certificate depending on their research area. They are encouraged to do this at the same time as completing the application form, as the wait times for approval can be extensive, and they cannot commence the placement until they have obtained it. Students or supervisors should contact faculty admissions teams to seek clarification.

While formal proof of English language proficiency is not required, we expect students to possess a proficient level of English that enables them to fully engage and undertake the placement effectively. This is determined at the discretion of the Imperial supervisor.