



2025 POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme FAQs

Contents:

About the programme:	2
What is the scope of the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?	2
Are there specific dates during which the training should take place?	2
Are there specific areas of research for the training?	2
Can I apply for a Fellowship for less than one month?	2
Can I apply for a Fellowship for more than three months?	2
Will the POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship pay for me to attend a training course?	3
Will POGO or SCOR apply for my visa if I need one?	3
Host Institution:	3
Will POGO help me find a host institution to visit?	3
Is there a list of host Institutions? Are there any requirements to qualify as host institute?	3
Does the host institute need to be in a developed country?	3
Eligibility:	4
Who can apply for a POGO-SCOR Fellowship?	4
I am a senior scientist. Can I apply for a POGO-SCOR Fellowship?	4
How do I know if I would be considered “an early-career professional”?	4
I am a citizen of a developing country, but I currently live and work in a developed country. Can I apply for the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?	4
I have been awarded a POGO fellowship before, can I still apply?	4
I am a bachelor’s student. Can I apply for the fellowship?	4
Application Process:	5
How do I apply for the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?	5
When is the application deadline?	5
What is the review process?	5
The selection committee will endeavour to maximise the number of fellows supported using the POGO-SCOR budget in any given year.	5
When will I be notified if I am selected?	5
Funding & financial support:	6
What expenses does the fellowship cover?	6
Do I need to submit a quotation of costs for travel and accommodation?	6
Will I receive the funds before my travel, or will I need to cover costs upfront?	6
Is there a maximum budget?	7
After the fellowship:	7
Do I need to submit a report at the end of the fellowship?	7
Will I receive a certificate at the end of the fellowship?	7



About the programme:

What is the scope of the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?

The Fellowships are designed to provide training and hands-on experience in ocean observations, as well as in the analysis and presentation of data derived from these observations. The fellowships are primarily aimed at early to mid-career scientists who would benefit from learning new skills, gaining hands-on experience, and expanding their professional network. Fellows may work with existing datasets or collect new observations at sea or from the shore. The programme's main purpose is to advance sustained ocean observations and their applications.

Are there specific dates during which the training should take place?

Yes. For the 2025 POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme, training must commence between September 2025 and March 2026.

Are there specific areas of research for the training?

While there are no specific areas of interest, priority will be given to applications that address any one or more of the following topics:

- Emerging and low-cost technologies for ocean observations
- Physical, biological and biogeochemical sensors on floats and gliders
- Floating litter observations and modelling
- Open and coastal ocean observation, modelling and management
- Data management & time series analysis
- Underwater sound, acoustic observations and modelling
- Optical measurements of living and non-living particles
- Fixed-point time-series observations (e.g. contributing to OceanSITES, OBIS, IODE Ocean Data Portal, WOD and/or other shared data systems)
- Large-scale, operational biological observations including biomolecular and biodiversity (e.g. biological EOVs, CPR, OBON and other programmes)

Can I apply for a Fellowship for less than one month?

No. The minimum duration of a POGO-SCOR Fellowship is one month.

Can I apply for a Fellowship for more than three months?

No. The Fellowship provides funding for a maximum of three months. If a fellow wishes to extend their stay beyond this period, they may do so, but they must secure additional funding independently.



Will the POGO-SCOR Visiting Fellowship pay for me to attend a training course?

No. The POGO-SCOR Fellowships are intended to support visits to host institutions for training, knowledge exchange, and networking. Fellowship funds cannot be used to cover fees for structured training courses, workshops, or conferences.

Will POGO or SCOR apply for my visa if I need one?

No. Fellows are responsible for obtaining their own visa, if required. However, the fellowship award letter issued by POGO can be used as a supporting document. You may also need an invitation letter from your host supervisor.

Please note that the fellowship does not constitute employment or admission to an academic programme. It provides financial support to help cover travel and living expenses while undertaking professional training. You may find [this website](#) useful for visa-related information.

Host Institution:

Will POGO help me find a host institution to visit?

No. Applicants are responsible for identifying and contacting a potential host supervisor/institution and securing an agreement for the visit. A letter of acceptance from the host institution must be submitted with the application. It is important to note that supervisor letters must specifically address this fellowship, be written in English, on institutional letterhead, dated, and signed. In addition, the prospective host supervisor letter must state the standard costs per calendar month for accommodation in the local area. Letters that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.

Is there a list of host Institutions? Are there any requirements to qualify as host institute?

No, there is no predefined list of host institutions. Applicants should seek institutions that align with their research interests and directly contact potential host supervisors. For examples of major oceanographic institutions worldwide, you may refer to the list of [POGO members](#).

Does the host institute need to be in a developed country?

No, there is no requirement for the host institution to be in a developed country. What matters is that the institution can provide the necessary training for your proposed project. However, the host institution must be in a different country from where you are currently based.



Eligibility:

Who can apply for a POGO-SCOR Fellowship?

This fellowship programme is open to early-career scientists, technicians, postgraduate (preferably PhD) students and post-doctoral fellows involved in oceanographic work at centres in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Applicants must be citizens of developing countries or economies in transition, as defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD (see the [list of eligible countries](#)). Note that priority will be given to applicants with limited international experience.

I am a senior scientist. Can I apply for a POGO-SCOR Fellowship?

No. The POGO-SCOR Fellowships are aimed at early-career scientists who would benefit from learning new skills, gaining hands-on experience, and expanding their professional network.

How do I know if I would be considered “an early-career professional”?

There is no strict definition, but generally, candidates who obtained their PhD (or highest degree) less than seven years ago are considered early-career professionals. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact the POGO Secretariat for clarification.

I am a citizen of a developing country, but I currently live and work in a developed country. Can I apply for the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?

No. The primary goal of the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme is to promote capacity building in developing countries. Therefore, applicants must be living and working in developing countries or economies in transition, as defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD (see the [list of eligible countries](#)).

I have been awarded a POGO fellowship before, can I still apply?

The POGO training programmes are highly competitive, and priority is given to early-career professionals who have not yet had extensive international training opportunities. As a result, the likelihood of being awarded multiple fellowships is low. However, applications from past POGO fellows will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Reviewers will consider factors such as the time elapsed since the previous fellowship, its impact on the applicant's career, and how the new training would build upon the previous one.

I am a bachelor's student. Can I apply for the POGO-SCOR fellowship?

Applicants who have not yet completed a master's degree must provide a strong justification for why their application should be considered. Please note that the POGO-SCOR Fellowships are highly competitive, and priority is given to graduate students.



Application Process:

How do I apply for the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme?

Fellowship applicants must complete the online application form, providing personal, professional, educational, training, and travel details. It is also a requirement to attach 1) a proposal form (must use the [fellowship proposal template](#)), 2) CV, 3) flight quotation evidence (which must clearly show dates of outbound and return flights, departure and arrival airports, total cost in EUROS (or with quotation currency specified)), 3) a parent supervisor recommendation letter, 4) a host supervisor acceptance letter.

It is important to note that parent and host supervisor letters must specifically address this fellowship, be provided in English, on institutional letterhead, dated and signed by the supervisors. In addition, the prospective host supervisor letter must state the standard costs per calendar month for accommodation in the local area. Letters that do not meet the specified requirements will not be accepted.

Only fully completed applications will be considered for the Fellowship.

When is the application deadline?

Application period will be open from 31 March 2025 to 27 April 2025 (23:59 CET). If required, deadline may be extended for another week.

What is the review process?

A Selection Committee, composed of Representatives from POGO and SCOR and external reviewers, will evaluate the valid applications considering the following criteria:

- Quality of the application;
- Quality of the applicant CV and background;
- Relevance of the application to the priority areas identified in the fellowship announcement;
- Evidence that the training will lead to improved sustained observations in the country/region of origin, or improved applications of such data;
- Evidence that the training will lead to capacity-building with potential lasting impact on regional observations; and,
- The need to maximize regional balance in distribution of the awards.

The selection committee will endeavour to maximise the number of fellows supported using the POGO-SCOR budget in any given year.

When will I be notified if I am selected?

The review process should take approximately one month, however duration may vary according to number of valid applications received. If shortlisted, candidates and potential host supervisors will be invited for an informal interview with the POGO Secretariat. All



applicants will be informed of the decision within two months after the deadline for applications, by email.

Funding & financial support:

What expenses does the fellowship cover?

The fellowship will provide international airfare (via the most economical route) and subsistence allowance for the fellowship period. The monthly subsistence allowance will be based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the country/city where the fellowship will be carried out, and on the actual cost of accommodation (evidence to be provided prior to the start of the fellowship). For the guidelines for the subsistence/accommodation allowance see "Guidelines for Stipend Calculation" document at <https://pogo-ocean.org/capacity-development/pogo-scor-fellowship-programme/>.

The fellowship does not cover expenses incurred by the fellow in their own nation (domestic travel, visa costs, travel insurance etc.) and any medical costs related to travel requirements (COVID tests, medical screening, etc.). The host institute will waive any bench fees that they may normally charge visitors.

Do I need to submit a quotation of costs for travel and accommodation?

Yes. In your application, you must include a quotation that clearly show dates of outbound and return flights, departure and arrival airports, total cost in EUROS (or with quotation currency specified).

In addition, the prospective host supervisor letter must state the standard costs per calendar month for accommodation in the local area.

If you are selected, the POGO Secretariat will normally book the flights and accommodation for you. However, if you choose to make your own travel arrangements, evidence of costs must be submitted to and approved by the POGO Secretariat prior to booking.

Will I receive the funds before my travel, or will I need to cover costs upfront?

Where possible, flights will be booked and paid for by the POGO Secretariat. Accommodation will also be paid directly, provided the hotel/landlord issues an invoice to POGO.

The subsistence allowance will be transferred to the fellow's bank account a few days prior to the training start.

In cases where the fellow makes their own travel arrangements, reimbursement will be made as soon as possible after provision of proof of purchase and claim form. You must submit your quotations to the POGO Secretariat for approval before confirming your purchase. Flights or accommodation purchased without approval will not be reimbursed.



Is there a maximum budget?

Yes. To support as many fellows as possible, the maximum budget per fellow is **€5,000**.

Selected candidates must find cost-effective accommodation and provide proof of expenses for approval, following the guidelines provided. Subsistence allowances will be calculated based on the cost of living in the training location. Travel expenses will be covered for the most economical route.

If the host institution is in a high-cost location, applicants are encouraged to consider a shorter training period to stay within budget.

Given the current global economic situation, we may prioritize shorter duration fellowships (1-2 months), and/or fellowships that would involve shorter travel distances and/or cities with lower Cost of Living Indices.

After the fellowship:

Do I need to submit a report at the end of the fellowship?

Yes. The fellow and the supervisors at the parent and host institutes are required to provide a short progress report within four weeks of the end of the training period, to evaluate the success of the fellowship programme.

Will I receive a certificate at the end of the fellowship?

Yes, upon successful completion of the fellowship and submission of a satisfactory report.