

2026 POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme FAQ

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. Fellows may work with existing datasets or collect new observations at sea or from the shore. However, the programme is not intended for research projects that are only loosely related to practical, sea-going observations. Its 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 2026 POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme, training must commence between September 2026 and March 2027.

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. The fellowship award letter issued by POGO can be used as a supporting document, and 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 [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 in their early stages of career development without extensive international experience.

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

The POGO-SCOR 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. Priority is given to applicants in their early stages of career development without extensive international experience.

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

Candidates who obtained their PhD (or highest degree) less than ten 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?

The primary goal of the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Programme is to promote capacity building in developing countries. While citizenship of a developing country or economy in transition is a necessary condition for eligibility, it is not sufficient on its own. Applicants must also be currently based at and affiliated with an institution in a developing country or economy in transition (See the [list of eligible countries](#)). Therefore, candidates who are currently based in developed countries are not eligible to apply, regardless of their nationality.

If you are planning to return to an institution in a developing country in the near future, we encourage you to consider applying in a future call.

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

The POGO training programmes are highly competitive, and priority is given to those 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 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 requirements & Selection 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) completed proposal form (must use the [fellowship proposal template](#)), 2) CV, 3) flight quotation evidence, 3) recommendation letter from parent supervisor, 4) acceptance letter from host supervisor.

Supervisor letters must specifically address this fellowship, be written in English, and be provided on institutional letterhead, dated and signed. In addition, the host supervisor letter must state the standard monthly accommodation costs in the local area. **Letters that do not meet these requirements will not be accepted.**

Flight quotation evidence must include the dates of outbound and return flights, departure and arrival airports, and the total cost inclusive of luggage, airport taxes, and any other applicable fees. The currency must be clearly stated, preferably in euros.

Only fully completed applications will be considered.

When is the application deadline?

Application period will be open from 07 April to 1st May 2026 (23:59 UTC). If required, deadline may be extended for another week.

What is the review process?

A Selection Committee composed by 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 number of selected fellows will be determined by available budget, trying to contemplate a maximum number of fellows.

When will I be notified if I am selected?

The review process should take ~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 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” file 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.

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

Flights will be booked by the POGO Secretariat, and accommodation will be paid directly, provided the hotel/landlord issues an invoice to POGO. The subsistence allowance will be transferred to the fellow’s bank account few days prior to the training start.

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

Yes. Evidence of costs related to transport between home country and host country needs to be submitted to approval of POGO Secretariat prior to booking.

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.