

Missouri Botanical Garden International Fellowships

2024 Call for Proposals

The Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG) is dedicated to supporting young scientists and professionals, helping them advance their careers and make a significant impact in their field of work and communities.

To this end, **we are pleased to announce the 2024 call for applications for MBG's International Fellowships**. These opportunities in plant systematics, biogeography, ecology, and conservation are made possible through a partnership between the Center for Conservation and Sustainable Development and the Latin America Department.

The Fellowships aim to aid students and young professionals by providing funding for research and training at MBG in St. Louis, Missouri. During their tenure, Fellows will gain access to MBG's extensive resources, including the herbarium, living collections, library, the TROPICOS database, and the Shaw Nature Reserve. Additionally, Fellows will have opportunities to participate in various interdisciplinary activities designed to enhance their experience and foster professional growth.

The Fellowships

The Shirley A. Graham Fellowship honors and celebrates Dr. Shirley A. Graham's contributions to science, particularly to the taxonomy and evolution of the plant family Lythraceae. The Shirley A. Graham Fellowships are awarded to scientists from Latin America, Madagascar, Vietnam, and Tanzania.

The Alwyn H. Gentry Fellowship was established to pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Alwyn H. Gentry, his long-standing dedication to the Missouri Botanical Garden, and his commitment to training students in tropical botany. The Alwyn H. Gentry Fellowships are awarded to scientists from Latin America.

The Aroid Fellowship was established to promote collections-based research in the family Araceae, specifically in Neotropical aroid genera, which include more than half of the species diversity in the family. The Aroid Fellowships are awarded to scientists from Latin America.

The fellowships will cover the costs of round-trip air travel and lodging in MBG's visitor apartments. They will provide a stipend for food, local transportation, and other incidental expenses in St. Louis for a period of at least three weeks and up to three months. The fellowships will also cover the costs of traveler's health insurance and visa applications, if necessary. Multiple awards per fellowship could be made depending on the availability of funds.

Requirements

The fellowships are open to students and young professionals actively working in the fields of botany or plant sciences from universities and governmental or non-governmental organizations.

Applicants must have received at least an undergraduate degree no more than ten years ago.

Fellowship applicants may choose either to conduct an independent research project or to work with an MBG scientist. If planning to work with a member of MBG staff, fellows must contact them in advance to secure support before submitting an application.

Application deadline:
31 July 2024

Announcement of results:
30 September 2024

Application Documents

- 1) Personal statement
- 2) Research proposal
- 3) Up-to-date curriculum vitae
- 4) Letter of recommendation
- 5) Letter of collaboration from MBG staff (if applicable)

Details and formats are specified below.

Applications may be submitted in English or Spanish.

Send applications and questions to:
Fellowship.Program@mobot.org

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Document Instructions

For each document, please, complete the numbered sections as described below.

Personal Statement (maximum 300 words)

1. **Experience:** Describe your relevant academic preparation and previous research or work in plant systematics, biogeography, ecology, or conservation; briefly explain how you came to be interested in your specific project.
2. **Professional goals:** Describe your long-term objectives and how this fellowship would help you advance your career.
3. **Previous visits:** If you have you previously visited MBG, include the dates and purpose of your visit.

Project Proposal

1. **Project description (maximum 700 words):**
 - a. **Title of proposed project.**
 - b. **Introduction:** Provide background information on the topic of the project, outline the problem that will be addressed, and establish the relevance and timeliness of the proposed work.
 - c. **Objectives and Goals:** Clearly state what the project intends to achieve.
 - d. **Methodology/Approach:** Describe the methods and techniques you will use to achieve your objectives.
 - e. **Significance/Impact:** Explain the potential impact of your project. This could include the contribution to your field, potential applications of your findings, and how it might benefit or influence society or other relevant stakeholders.
2. **Plan for fellowship (maximum 300 words):**
 - a. **Fellowship choice.** Please choose the fellowship that best fits your proposed project (i.e. Graham, Gentry, Aroid). Multiple options are acceptable.
 - b. **Preliminary work/Progress to date.** If applicable, describe any preliminary activities you have conducted that supports your proposed project. This can help establish feasibility and your capability to complete your objectives.
 - c. **Work Plan and Timeline:** Provide a detailed schedule of how you plan to carry out your project

activities. This should include key milestones and deadlines.

- d. **Justification:** Describe how a visit to MBG will be critical to advance or complete your project.
3. **References/Bibliography:** List all scholarly works cited in your proposal. This demonstrates the foundations of your project and acknowledges the contributions of others.

Curriculum Vitae (minimum information required)

1. **Personal information:**
 - a. Complete name (first, middle, last names)
 - b. Place and date of birth
 - c. Complete mailing address
 - d. Telephone (including country and city codes)
 - e. E-mail address
2. **Education:** For each degree earned, include the institution, city, degree earned, year of graduation, and area of specialization.

If you are currently a student, please indicate that, include the name of the institution and city, and provide the name and email address of your academic advisor.
3. **Employment history:** For each position held, indicate the institution, city, title and dates of employment.
4. **Publications:** For each publication, include names of all authors in the same order as in the original publication, year of publication, title of the publication, and the journal or book where the work was published.
5. **Presentations:** For each presentation you have given (oral or poster), include names of all authors, year of presentation, title of the presentation, and the name of the event.
6. **Other accomplishments and relevant experience:** List all other experience relevant to your career or to the proposed project.