ERCIM Alain Bensoussan Fellowship Programme

ERCIM

European Research Consortium
for Informatics and Mathematics

**Cooperating for Excellence
in Research**

ERCIM Alain Bensoussan
Fellowship Programme

The postdoctoral Fellowship Programme has been established as one of the premier activities of ERCIM. Since its inception in 1991, over 750 fellows have passed through the programme. It has enabled bright young scientists from all over the world to work on challenging problems as fellows of ERCIM member institutes. Each year, ERCIM launches two calls for application (31 March and 30 September). The duration of a fellowship is 12 months (with the possibility to extend up to 24 months) to be spent in one ERCIM institute including a visit of at least one week at another ERCIM member institute.

Benefits for hosting institutes

- Access to highly qualified scientific researchers from all over the world;
- Straightforward selection and recruiting process;
- Increased visibility of the host's post-doctoral programme;
- Administrative service provided by an effective flexible team at the ERCIM Office;
- Fellows can be hired according to the host's employment policy; either through stipends managed by ERCIM or through working contracts with the hosting institute;
- Hosts offer the fellow an attractive visit of another ERCIM institute (Research Exchange Programmme) and participation to scientific conference(s) without any administrative burden;
- New contacts and interactions between ERCIM institutes through the built-in Research Exchange Programme;
- The ERCIM Office has extensive experience in managing fellowships (recruiting, communication with the fellow, administrative matters, a "hotline" for the scientific hosts and the fellows, reporting, etc.) for the benefit of the member institutes.

Fellows

- Are coming from all over the world without geographical restriction;
- Are researchers from academic institutions and industry;
- Must have obtained their PhD degree during the last 8 years prior to the application deadline or be in the last year of the thesis work with an outstanding academic record, but with no age limit;
- Are fluent in English;
- Are discharged or get deferment from military service;
- Must have completed the PhD before starting the fellowship.

In order to encourage mobility:
- A member institute will not be eligible to host a candidate of the same nationality;
- A candidate cannot be hosted by a member institute, if by the start of the fellowship, he or she has already been working for this same institute (including PhD or postdoctoral studies) for a total of 6 months or more, during the last 3 years.

> "The ERCIM programme gave me the opportunity to host several bright young scientists, which lead to fruitful collaborations and contributed to the dynamics of my team. Definitely, it has been a very enriching experience."
> *Catuscia Palamidessi, Inria*

> "In my view, the most important benefits for us include new research ideas and perspectives and increasing our collaboration network, both with the fellows in their future endeavours but also their former research collaborators. However, the most important benefit is probably the ability to find and try out talent for research positions."
> *Daniel Gillblad, SICS*

How much does it cost?

The whole recruiting process, from the promotion of the call to the whole selection of the fellows is managed by ERCIM Office in coordination with the participating institutions. Until the selection, the service is free of charge for the hosting institute. The host will have to fund the fellowship only when a fellowship contract is signed. There are two options depending of the type of contract offered by the host institution.

Option A: Working contract

The entire costs entailed by the working contract (including salary) are at the charge of the host organisation. In addition, the host will be charged € 3 706 by ERCIM. Up to € 3 400 of this amount are used to support the fellow's:

- Participation in scientific events,
- Visit of another ERCIM Institution (Research Exchange Programme),
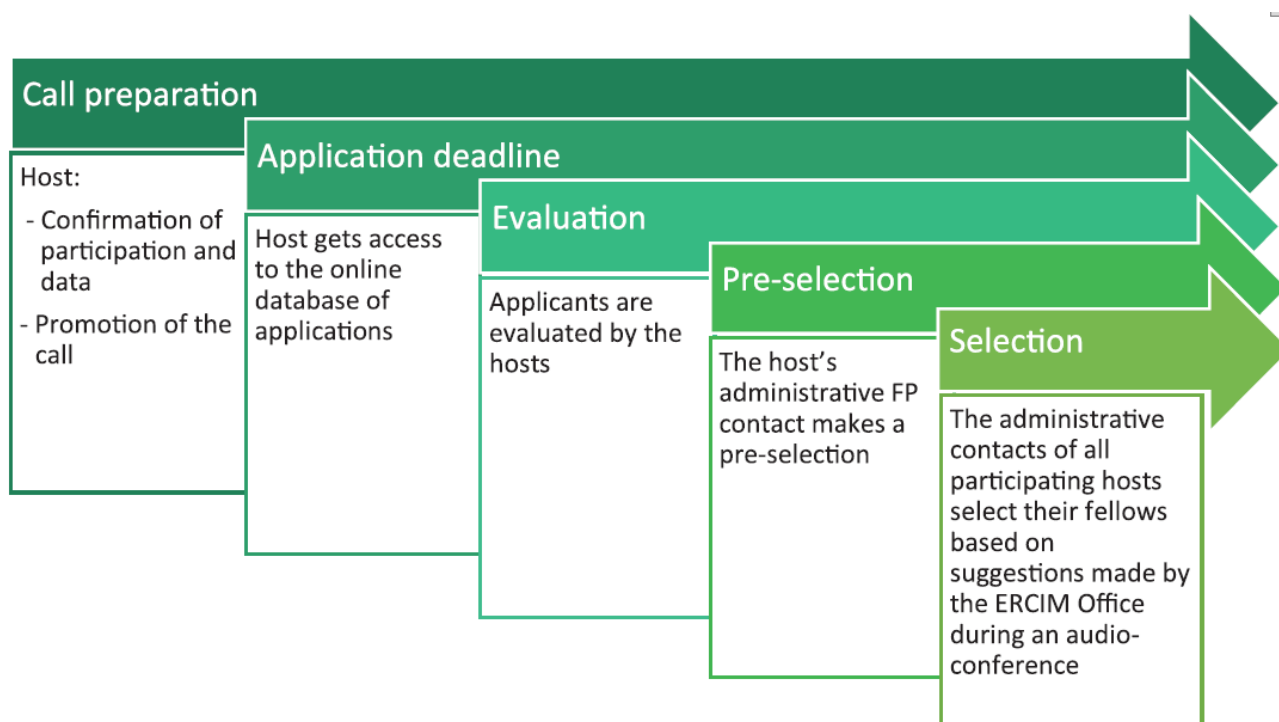- Moving costs.

Option B: Stipend contract managed by ERCIM

The stipend depends on the net allowance to be given to the fellow. ERCIM uses the service of the organization "Campus France" (http://www.campusfrance.org/en) in order to ensure the monthly payment of the allowance and a personal health insurance protection for the fellow. The formula for calculating the costs charged by ERCIM to the host institution over 12 months is as follows:

[(Net allowance x 12) + € 2 400 (Campus France costs) + € 3 400 (participation to the fellow's trips)] x 1.09

Example: For a monthly € 2400 net allowance, the total cost to be funded by the host institution is € 37 714.

How does it work in practice?

Call preparation

Host:
- Confirmation of participation and data
- Promotion of the call

Application deadline

Host gets access to the online database of applications

Evaluation

Applicants are evaluated by the hosts

Pre-selection

The host's administrative FP contact makes a pre-selection

Selection

The administrative contacts of all participating hosts select their fellows based on suggestions made by the ERCIM Office during an audio-conference

How to become a host?

All ERCIM member institutes can participate in this programme.

Prior to an application call, an institute interested in participation must:
- Nominate an "Administrative Coordinator". This is the person in charge of the programme for the hosting institute. The administrative coordinator is the main contact for the ERCIM at the host organisation and has a key role during all steps of the process.
- Define the type of grant: a) working contract or b) stipend managed by ERCIM.
- Inform ERCIM of the fellow's net allowance/salary.

An institute will also have the opportunity to:
- Define specific scientific topics of interest for the institute,
- Indicate how many fellows the institute wants to hire from the upcoming call,
- Regularly updates their data.

New participants receive a comprehensive explanation of the financial conditions.

Interested in participating in the next Call of the Fellowship Programme?

Please contact:

The FP administrative coordinator of your institute (see : fellowship.ercim.eu/information)

**or
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