

Antwerp, 18/12/2023

**ITM-DGD Postdoctoral Grants Call  
Call 2024**

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## 1. Concept

In the 2024 postdoctoral grants call the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) at Antwerp will award up to 3 postdoctoral grants to candidates from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) as part of a comprehensive capacity strengthening programme supported by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD). The grants will allow selected PhD holders who are based in a LMIC home institute to carry out a tailored postdoctoral training programme with stays at ITM for maximum 3 months per calendar year in a period of maximum 3 years. Candidates must present a postdoctoral training programme proposal supported by their supervisors/mentors at the home institute and ITM. During these postdoctoral stays the candidates will be mentored by experienced researchers of the inviting ITM unit/research group while they expand and consolidate their research skills and experience, develop new research ideas, explore/identify their 'research niche', learn from exposure to a new research and training environment (at ITM and beyond), grow their independence, identify external funding opportunities, expand their network of collaborators, contribute to or lead specific outputs such as publications or policy-related work.

The proposed programme must contribute to capacity strengthening of the candidate and the home institute and/or country.

## 2. Eligibility criteria

- A complete application according to the guidelines in Annex 1 must be submitted by the deadline of 15 March 2024.
- The head of unit from the candidate's home institute and the head of unit/supervising professor of the ITM must declare their commitment to supporting, developing and mentoring the postdoctoral candidate (support letters must be added in annex to the application).
- The candidate's home institute must be based in an eligible country (see Annex 2) and must have a legal position independent from any institution in a high-income country.
- Candidates must be a national of a country eligible for DGD funding (list in annex 2). A limited number of grants can be awarded to nationals from [any low and middle income country](#). Candidates must have primary residence in a low or middle income country. Non-eligibility criteria are: having the nationality of a high-income country (multiple nationalities); having performed a professional activity for more than 1 year in a high-income country in the period of 3 years before the application deadline of March 15, 2024; being on ITM's payroll at the moment or in the past.
- Candidates must have obtained their PhD before the start of the postdoctoral grant period (1 July 2024) and for no longer than 3 years before the submission deadline (15 March 2024).
- Candidates conducted their PhD in collaboration with ITM *or* can demonstrate their scientific collaborating relationship other ways.
- Candidates must deliver proof of English proficiency with a certificate from a recognized institution unless they are exempt. The minimum language requirements are proof of a TOEFL iBT score of 79-93, an IELTS score of 6.5 or other qualifying evidence of an English CEFR level of B2-C1 meaning a higher tier B2 or C1. A higher tier B2 will generally mean a B2 on all components of language proficiency and would have to be evidenced. (ITM Toefl Code = 7727). Native English speakers are exempt from these language requirements. Applicants whose first language is not English are exempt if they have successfully completed a higher education programme of at least 60 ECTS credits taught in English or have a higher education diploma from a Flemish Community higher education institution (e.g. PhD).



- A home institute binding statement declaring that the candidate is on the payroll of the home institute/ has a valid contract with the home institute for the duration of the postdoctoral grant period (remunerated appointment of at least 50%) must be added to the application.

### 3. Grant conditions

DGD and ITM scholarship/grant regulations apply.

The postdoctoral grant includes:

- An allowance for living expenses such as housing, meals, individual travel, personal cost for stays in Belgium (1750 €/month, max. 9 months in a period of 3 years, max. 3 months per year);
- An allowance to cover the costs directly related to the postdoctoral training (= bench fee, max. 1000 €/month of stay, max. 9 months, to be justified);
- Insurance during stays at ITM (63 €/month) ;
- Registration fee at ITM (600 €/once);
- Airplane ticket (one return ticket annually in economy class).

The grant specificities will be detailed in a 'Study Contract for Postdoctoral Traineeship'. The grant does not constitute an employment relationship between the ITM and the trainee. The payment and administrative follow-up of the postdoctoral grant will be ensured by ITM's Student Services.

### 4. Duration

The postdoctoral grant can be allocated for maximum 3 months at ITM (or beyond) per calendar year within a period of maximum three years. The grant period starts on 1 July 2024.

### 5. Evaluation criteria

All eligible applications will be reviewed by the ITM PhD Committee based on the evaluation criteria:

- Quality of the candidate (motivation, academic record, vision for the future...)
- Quality of the proposed postdoctoral research training and activities programme (including contribution to capacity strengthening of the candidate/home institute and/or home country)
- Training environment and mentoring

### 6. Selection procedure

- The ITM PhD Committee will review the eligible applications based on the evaluation criteria of the call.
- The evaluation advice by the ITM PhD Committee will be sent for approval and final decision to the ITM Management Committee.



## 7. Timeline

- 18 December 2023: launch of the call
- The deadline for submission of applications is 15 March 2024.
- The evaluation by the ITM PhD Committee will take place in April 2024.
- The final decision is taken by the ITM Management Committee in May 2024.
- The candidates and their supervisors will be notified by 15 May 2024.

## 8. Contact

Further information can be obtained from Ann Verlinden, ITM Head Research Office ([averlinden@itg.be](mailto:averlinden@itg.be); +32 (0)3 247 66 86), to whom the applications should be sent in electronic form by the deadline, copying Nathalie Brouwers, [nbrouwers@itg.be](mailto:nbrouwers@itg.be)).



## ANNEX 1. Application form



### ITM-DGD Postdoctoral Grants Call Call 2024

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#### TITLE postdoctoral grant application

**Duration** postdoctoral grant period: 1 July 2024- [Specify end date of your envisaged postdoctoral period]...

*The postdoctoral grant can be allocated for maximum 3 months at ITM (or beyond) per calendar year within a period of maximum three years. The grant period starts on 1 July 2024 and can maximally last until 30 June 2027.*

**Candidate:**

- LAST and first name candidate
- Date of birth
- Nationality
- Gender
- (foreseen) date of PhD defence
- Email address
- Home institute + country

**Supervisors:**

- Name ITM supervisor(s)
- Name + Contact details supervisor home institute

*Please send your application including this cover page electronically to Ann Verlinden, ITM Head Research Office by 15 April 2023, 5 p.m. Belgian time ([averlinden@itg.be](mailto:averlinden@itg.be), 32-(0)32476686). Please copy [nbrouwers@itg.be](mailto:nbrouwers@itg.be). All applications will be checked using URKUND, plagiarism checker.*



The postdoctoral grant application must include the cover page and :

### **Candidate**

1. Motivation statement demonstrating your motivation for the postdoctoral training programme and describing your current and long-term career ambitions and future vision beyond this postdoctoral stage.
2. A CV including your academic record and a short description of your present employment.
3. Soft copies of the academic transcripts of your higher education record, including PhD degree.
4. Proof of proficiency in writing, speaking and reading English as specified in the eligibility criteria unless you are exempt.
5. A home institute binding statement declaring that you are on the payroll of your home institute/ have a valid contract with the home institute for the duration of the postdoctoral grant period (remunerated appointment of at least 50%).

### **Training and activities programme (do not exceed 3 pages)**

1. What is your postdoctoral research about in the next 3 years?
2. Training goals:  
*At the end of the postdoctoral training period the postdoctoral trainee must be able to... (specify)*
3. Training and activities during the postdoctoral grant period, more specifically during the postdoc stays at ITM  
*Include timeline and justification on how the bench fee will be spent. If you foresee during the maximum 3 months per year, a training period outside ITM in another institute in Belgium or a third country, please specify.*
4. Explanation on how the proposed postdoctoral training programme will contribute to the individual capacity strengthening of the candidate and the strengthening of the home institute and/or country.

### **Training environment and supervision/mentorship**

1. Description of the training environment and the supervision/mentorship.  
*In addition to this description, you must include support letters from your supervisors/mentors at your home institute and ITM in annex to your application.*
2. Assessment  
The trainee will be assessed through.../by... *(specify method and name assessor)*



## ANNEX 2. Countries eligible for funding

Countries eligible for DGD funding are:

Benin, Bolivia, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

A limited number of PhD scholarships can be awarded to nationals from [any low and middle income country](#).

