

Antwerp, 19/12/2026

**ITM-DGD Postdoctoral Grants Call
Call 2026**

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1. Concept

In the 2026 postdoctoral grants call the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) at Antwerp will award 4 to 6 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 in English through the [online Student platform](#) by the deadline of 15 March 2026.
- 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. They will get an invitation through the Student platform to upload their letters of commitment.
- 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 LMIC](#). Candidates must have primary residence in a LMIC. 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, 2026; 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 2026) and for no longer than 6 years before the submission deadline (15 March 2026).
- Candidates conducted their PhD in collaboration with ITM *or* can demonstrate their scientific collaborating relationship other ways.
 1. 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 internet-based test (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). (also check <https://publicdocs.itq.be/com/ITM-englishmaterials-toc-2.pdf>)

- 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 2026 and can maximally last until 30 June 2029 on condition that the capacity strengthening programme supported by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid is continued beyond 2026. The first 3-month period must be completed within 2026.

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

- 19 December 2025: launch of the call
- The deadline for submission of applications is 15 March 2026.
- The evaluation by the ITM PhD Committee will take place in April & May 2026.
- The final decision is taken by the ITM Management Committee in May 2026.
- The candidates and their supervisors will be notified by 15 June 2026. Grant period starts on 1 July 2026.

8. Contact

Further information can be obtained from Ann Verlinden, ITM Head Research Office (averlinden@itg.be; +32 (0)3 247 66 86) or via postdoc-info@itg.be.



ANNEX 1. Application guidelines

Applications must be submitted in English through the [online Student platform](#) by the deadline of 15 March 2026.

The following documents must be uploaded:

Motivation statement Postdoc

Write a 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.

Curriculum Vitae

A CV is a concise and relevant summary of personal information, work experience, education and training and personal skills. The Europass website gives a good example of format.

Academic and professional degrees

Certified proof of prior formal academic or professional education and training. This includes graduate and postgraduate training or higher education degrees such as: Bachelor, Master or PhD degrees. If the original degree certificate is not in English, French, Spanish or Dutch, a certified translation must be uploaded as well.

Transcript of academic records

These are the authenticated transcripts of grades obtained during graduate and postgraduate education and training. If the original transcript is not in English, French, Spanish or Dutch, a certified translation must be uploaded as well.

Proof of course level proficiency

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 internet-based test (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. 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).

Home binding statement Postdoc

This statement on letterhead paper must be signed by the home institute's legal representative and stating his/her name, function, email address and stamp of the institute. The statement must attest that the postdoc 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%).

[DGD scholarship application form](#)

Must be uploaded for the information of the ITM Student Support.



Your Postdoctoral application

Use the template attached to describe (i) your training and activities programme and (ii) your training environment and supervision/mentorship.

ITM-DGD Postdoctoral Grants Call Call 2026

Use FONT CALIBRI 11, Line Spacing 1.

TITLE postdoctoral grant application

Duration postdoctoral grant period: 1 July 2026 - [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 2026 and can maximally last until 30 June 2029. The first 3-month period must be completed within 2026.

Training and activities programme (do not exceed 3 pages)

1. What is your postdoctoral research about in the next 3 years/envisaged postdoctoral grant period?

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.

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](#).

