

## Global Minds Call 2020 Joint PhD

### Abbreviations

BAOW	Bijzonder Adviesorgaan voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking
IRMO	International Relations & Mobility Office
RIB	Council for International Policy / Raad Internationaal Beleid
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
ZAP	Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals

### Objectives of the call

- To ensure a development relevant minimum academic capacity at the institutional level of VUB to perform effective University Development Cooperation with other stakeholders.
- To strengthen the scientific collaboration between the VUB and the universities in the South by means of joint research of mutual interest, on the basis of individual PhD-scholarships.

<b>Budget</b>	The call awards a scholarship for 6 months. This includes: monthly allowance of 1.500 € for maximum six months, return plane ticket (economy), tuition fee (469,8 € for 2019-2020), insurance (30 € per month), visa cost (max. 100 €) and a supervision allowance for the promotor (300 € per month).
<b>Duration</b>	Mobility has to take place in 2020
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p><b>Nationality</b> The candidate should be a national <b>and</b> resident of one of the countries on the country list (see below).</p> <p><b>Degree</b> The candidate must have graduated from a Master programme with at least the grade of distinction or equivalent at the moment of application.</p> <p><b>Number of applications per candidate</b> A candidate can apply more than once for a VUB-PhD scholarship.</p> <p><b>In case of resubmission, the comments by the selection committee on the previous application, need to be addressed.</b></p> <p><b>Admission to the PhD programme</b> The candidate must verify that all academic conditions of enrolment in a PhD programme at the home university have been fulfilled. The candidate must have obtained official permission from the PhD-committee of the home university. These documents are part of the candidate's application.</p>

	<p>When selected, the candidate has to register at VUB for all years till the defense. Payment of tuition (separate from registration) is only mandatory in the year of defense. The scholarship granted under this call, is only valid in 2020, so the budget foreseen for tuition can only be used if 2020 is the year of defense.</p> <p><b>Institutional link</b> Considering the aim of this programme to strengthen institutional collaboration, the candidate must be employed by the home university.</p> <p><b>Language and proficiency</b> The application must be written in English. The candidate should have successfully completed one of the following language proficiency tests corresponding to the Common European Framework of Reference with minimum level B2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOEFL iBT with minimum level: 79;</li> <li>• IELTS with minimum level: academic module 6.5;</li> <li>• ITACE with minimum level: B2;</li> <li>• Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE), grade B;</li> <li>• Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), grade C</li> </ul> <p><b>Promoters/supervisors</b> The application should be supported both by a home university and a VUB promotor/supervisor. The home university promotor is linked to the home university in which the applicant is employed – and who is, according to the local regulation, eligible to supervise a PhD – and by a promotor employed by VUB, also eligible to supervise a PhD.</p> <p><b>Number of applications per promotor and university</b> A promotor may supervise no more than two PhD-students within the same call of the Global Minds Joint PhD programme.</p>
<p><b>Required documents: The complete application package, consisting of:</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A completed application document (annex 1);</li> <li>b) A copy of the diplomas obtained: university degree, equivalent to a Flemish Master’s degree (obtained after minimum 4 years of university study);</li> <li>c) Transcripts of academic records (mark sheets) of all the academic years;</li> <li>d) Certificate of enrolment as PhD at the home university;</li> <li>e) An English version of the PhD research proposal as accepted by the home university for enrolment as PhD student;</li> <li>f) One letter of recommendation by each of the promotors (annex 2);</li> <li>g) Short curriculum vitae of the promotors (annex 2)</li> <li>h) A research proposal (annex 3);</li> <li>i) A comprehensive motivation letter by the PhD;</li> <li>j) A proof of proficiency in English language</li> <li>k) Letter of institutional commitment (home university)</li> <li>l) If applicable, certificates of ethical or biosafety commissions</li> </ol>



	The templates for the annexes can be found <a href="#">here</a> . The application package must be submitted by the Flemish promotor via the <a href="#">online submission form</a> .
<b>PhD applicant is national and resident of following country options</b>	<b>Africa:</b> Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe. <b>Asia:</b> Cambodia, Indonesia, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Vietnam. <b>Latin America:</b> Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Peru.
<b>Launch of call</b>	14 October 2019
<b>Deadline submission</b>	11 November 2019
<b>Grants available</b>	4 grants will be available for this call
<b>Contact person at IRMO</b>	Olivia Lebbe : <a href="mailto:Olivia.lebbe@vub.be">Olivia.lebbe@vub.be</a> Jannes Motmans : <a href="mailto:Jannes.motmans@vub.be">Jannes.motmans@vub.be</a>

*Note:*

*To cover the travel cost and cost of stay for the PhD candidate who is coming to VUB for the thesis defense, and for the promotor of the home university to attend the defense at VUB, the VUB-promotor can apply for funding through the Global Minds call for staff mobility (upon availability of staff mobility funding).*

## Selection criteria

The selection is a competitive process organised by the RIB and based on the assessment of the quality of the proposal from an academic and organisational point of view.

Overall, it will be examined if the project is in line with the Global Minds goals:

- to strengthen and deepen the capacity and knowledge of VUB in development cooperation and to sustain, improve and expand its collaboration with partners in the South (developing countries);
- to integrate development issues into education and research
- to raise awareness about global challenges

We are aiming at proposals that are development relevant. By this we mean the extent to which the proposals' objectives are consistent with beneficiaries' requirements, country needs, synergy opportunities, global priorities (SDG's) and partners' and donors' policies.

The selection is primarily based on the following criteria:

1. **Quality:** Quality of the proposal (content, form, ...).
2. **Effectiveness:** The extent to which the proposals' objectives are expected to be achieved, taking into account the planned activities and the connected deliverables/results (activities -> deliverables -> objectives)
3. **Efficiency:** A measure of how economically resources/inputs (funds, expertise, time, etc.) are converted to deliverables/results. "Value for Money"

4. **Impact:** Potential positive and negative effects produced by the activity, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended, for the applicant, VUB, the society, sector and, if relevant, for the local partner.
5. **Sustainability/Strategic Relevance:** The continuation of benefits and/or cooperation after the activities have been completed. The developmental relevance. The contribution to the capacity building of the VUB in the field of university development cooperation.

Furthermore, following aspects related to Joint PhD will be assessed:

1. **Feasibility:** PhD-status at the home university, language issues, support of the PhD-applicant by the home university ...
2. **Academic Quality** of the proposal and **academic credentials** of the applicant
3. **Added value:** what is the added value for the home university, for the VUB, your research group, your research, ...? Does it contribute to the capacity building of the VUB in the field of university development cooperation, ...?
4. **Programme and planning:** is there a relevant and logical planning of the stay?)

## Selection procedure

Step 1: IRMO performs an eligibility check.

Step 2: All eligible applications are sent to the BAOW.

Step 3: The BAOW makes a selection and advises the RIB on the selection results.

Step 4: The RIB makes the final decision.

The following time frame is set:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
14 October 2019	Call will be launched to all deans, 'vakgroepvoorzitters', 'voorzitters van de opleidingsraad' and via the e-newsletter	IRMO
11 November 2019	Deadline for application. Complete application package must be uploaded electronically by the Flemish promotor at <a href="https://tim4vub.wufoo.com/forms/joint-phd-2020-application/">https://tim4vub.wufoo.com/forms/joint-phd-2020-application/</a>	Flemish supervisor
26 November 2019	Pre-selection by BAOW	IRMO and BAOW
12 December 2019	Final approval by the RIB	RIB
17 December 2019	Applicants will be notified by e-mail	IRMO
	Funding will be made available shortly after the selection. Payments of the scholarship are handled by IRMO.	IRMO and Dept. Financial Administration
Latest one month after the stay	Narrative report of the stay is transmitted to IRMO.	Grantee – ZAP member
PhD defense	The dates of defense and the grade obtained is communicated to IRMO	VUB supervisor

## **Selection outcome**

All applicants will receive an e-mail with the selection outcome the latest 3 weeks after the RIB selection. Detailed feedback about the proposal will be provided in that e-mail.

## **Final report**

A narrative and financial report, must be submitted one month after the ending of the project. It will present the current state of affairs of the project. The report must be presented on the required forms, which are available on the VUB website.

The reports must be sent electronically to [Olivia.lebbe@vub.be](mailto:Olivia.lebbe@vub.be).

## **Information**

For further general information, please contact IRMO

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