



Terms of Reference for the Peter M. Schneider ISFG Fellowships of the International Society for Forensic Genetics (ISFG)

The ISFG is offering up to 10 short-term travel fellowships for scientists to support transnational exchange visits between collaborating research groups for specific projects related to forensic genetics. Each fellowship includes financial support for travel and accommodation of up to EUR 1,200 for visits within the same continent, and EUR 2,400 for visits from continent to continent.

The fellowship program will be renewed annually depending on available funding.

1. APPLICANTS

Applications can be submitted by ISFG members actively carrying out forensic genetic research

- either in an ongoing collaboration with a partner laboratory in another country,
- or having an invitation from a laboratory in another country to visit for acquiring a new method / technology / research approach.

In case of a granted training visit (not a visit for collaborative work), the host institute will receive a EUR 100 voucher which can be used for ISFG activities, such as the ISFG Summer School, ISFG congress, or ISFG pre-congress workshops. The voucher can be used within two years after the issuing date.

Please note that previous recipients of an ISFG fellowship are only eligible for another fellowship after 4 years.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Submissions should be done via email providing all relevant documentation, attached as PDF files, namely:

- CV with publications of the last three years
- Description of the purpose of the travel: scope of the project or collaboration, expected benefit for the applicant and (if applicable) for the host/partner institution, expected travel dates, host institution ([submission form](#))
- Acceptance letter by the host/partner institution
- Any other relevant documentation to support the application
- Cost estimate for travel and accommodation

Submission should be sent to the following email address fellowships@isfg.org. In the case of incomplete documentation, the applicant will be contacted and he/she should complete the application within the following ten days.

3. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Deadline is June 30th, 2023 for planned fellowship visits during 2023/2024. Decisions will be announced until July 31st, 2023.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The applications will be reviewed by the ISFG Fellowship Review Board (FRB) composed of the speakers/chairpersons of the ISFG Working Parties and chaired by the Representative for Education and Training of the ISFG Executive Board. The applications will be circulated by email, and reviewing will be done online. The evaluation and selection criteria are as follows:

- Relevance of the project/training in the field of Forensic Genetics
- Relevance of the project/training for the candidate institution
- Relevance of the project/training for the receptor institution
- Adequacy of the candidate's curriculum to the requested project/training
- Adequacy of the host institution/group to support the requested project/training
- How important is the visit to carry out the project/training
- Adequacy of the duration of the exchange in relation to the activities to be carried out

Other criteria that will be considered in the selection of similarly ranked applications are:

- Geographical diversity of the participating countries
- Number of candidates from the same institution in this call (this criterion does not apply to the host institution, in the case of training grants)

The decisions of the FRB cannot be appealed. However, rejected applications can be resubmitted again in the following call if the program is renewed.

5. FINAL REPORT AND REIMBURSEMENT

Accepted fellows are kindly requested to pay their travel and accommodation expenses in advance. Only travel expenses from the fellow's place of residence to the partner/host institute's location and accommodation expenses during the visit will be reimbursed. Only economy air travel tickets are reimbursed. Accommodation expenses must be restricted to the period of development of the activity, up to a maximum of 2 additional nights for trips within the same continent, and 3 additional nights for trips between continents. No expenses exceeding the limits of EUR 1,200 within the continent and EUR 2,400 between continents can be reimbursed.

Within one month after the completion of the visit, the fellow should provide the following documentation to the email address fellowships@isfg.org:

- A [reimbursement form](#) listing the expenses and including the original tickets/boarding passes, and invoices or receipts for all declared expenses (only costs for travel and accommodation are eligible).
- A short letter by the host institution confirming the visit.
- A short report (one A4 page) about the purpose and main outcome of the exchange visit to be placed on the ISFG website.

Expenses will be reimbursed according to the submitted [reimbursement form](#) statement. The payment will be made to the applicant's account by bank transfer as indicated under section 2.

Corina Benschop
Representative for Education and Training of the ISFG Executive Board