Internship Program
For Emerging European Scientists

African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) and Agropolis Fondation are jointly implementing the One Planet Fellowship, a career development initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), BNP Paribas Foundation with additional support from Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the European Union (EU) Commission. The Fellowship was created with the aim of building a dynamic, diverse, and highly connected network of African and European scientists equipped to lead cutting-edge research and innovation to help Africa’s small-scale farmers adapt to a changing climate. Through the One Planet Fellowship, it is anticipated that collaborative research, training, and professional networks will increase tremendously with the implementation of a series of interventions, including internship programs for emerging European scientists.

Internship objective

The Internship Program offered by AWARD and Agropolis Fondation gives young European scientists an opportunity to experience the specific challenges, opportunities, and context of climate change and agricultural research in Africa. The programs allow them to acquire research field experience in a diverse African environment and broaden their perspectives of agriculture and food systems in varying landscapes. In addition, it is a great way to enhance networking and build collaborative working relations with other scientists at national, regional, and global stages to solve climate change issues that are, by nature, global.

Eligible applicants

These internship programs are open to:

- European scientists (EU nationals), male and female, aged below 30 years and ready to work in a multicultural environment.
- Applicants are primarily Master’s and PhD students. However, junior scientists working in various research institutions and universities in Europe are also eligible.
- The junior scientists’ focus research area or study program should be clearly connected to agriculture, food systems, and climate change.
- The Internship Programs are also suitable for students interested in doing research work in Africa as part of their study program.
Selection process

The inaugural call for the One Planet Fellowship Internship Programs opens on **February 20, 2023**. Interested European scientists are invited to fill out and submit their application forms online on or before **March 20, 2023**. A selection committee will review the submissions and select the suitable candidates on a continuous basis during the call period. Successful applicants will be notified no later than two (2) weeks after the submission of their applications.

Matching process

Following the successful selection, each European scientist will be paired with an African scientist – "Science Mentor" - working in an African-based university or research institution. The matching will be done based on similar research interests, projects, and the application of new knowledge. The pairs will be notified in good time to organize an online introductory meeting facilitated by AWARD.

Internship activities

**Virtual work planning**

At the planning phase, it is expected that each pair will work virtually to develop a work plan in line with their research questions, methodology, possible field work, and reporting. The proposed work planning must be ready at least two weeks before the Launch, Training, and Network Week.

**Launch, Training and Networking Week**

The Internship Programs will kick off with a Launch, Training and Networking Week to be held in **Nairobi, Kenya**, in the fourth week of May 2023. The selected European junior scientists will attend the workshop with the African scientists and other African junior scientists. The one-week workshop will focus on:

- Developing roadmaps with guidance and input from the African scientists and;
- Reviewing and finalizing the work plans for engagement during the scientific visits in Africa-based institutions.

AWARD will also organize educational site visits for the participants during the workshop week.

**Scientific visits in host institutions in Africa**

Following the week-long workshop in Nairobi, the European junior scientists will proceed for a one-month scientific visit at the institution of the African scientists ("science Mentors"). AWARD and the selected host institutions will support the European scientists to settle down into the country and institution, conduct desk review and fieldwork, and any other support they may require during their stay as per the AWARD guidelines and institutional policies. AWARD anticipates that scientific visits may take place in the following countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, and Zambia.

**Note:** While the scientific visits are scheduled for a one-month period, they can be extended if the European junior scientists are able to secure additional funding to complete the requirements under their study/research programs.
**Virtual (monthly) follow-up sessions**
The scientific visits will be followed by virtual monthly check-in sessions up to **November 2023**. During these sessions, it is expected that all the researchers, including the European junior scientists involved in the internship programs, will pursue their mutual engagement and collaboration on the roadmaps and research work initiated in the program. AWARD will coordinate the follow-up sessions and collect, with the scientists’ support, the necessary information/data for the program evaluation.

**Timing and dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 20-March 20, 2023</td>
<td>Call for applications opens and closes. Selection and matching process</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2023</td>
<td>Virtual work planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21-27, 2023</td>
<td>Launch, Training and Networking Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2023</td>
<td>Scientific visits in host institutions in Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>July-Nov. 2023</td>
<td>Virtual (monthly) follow-up sessions</td>
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<td>Dec. 2023</td>
<td>End of the internship programs</td>
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**Practical modalities**

AWARD and Agropolis Fondation will cover the costs of the internship programs and local hosting in the African countries. These costs mainly include a **round-trip flight ticket, travel insurance, visa processing, accommodation, meals, and living expenses**, as well as any other eligible costs approved by AWARD and Agropolis Fondation.

AWARD works toward inclusive, agriculture-driven prosperity for the African continent by strengthening the production and dissemination of more gender-responsive agricultural research and innovation. We invest in African scientists, research institutions, and agribusinesses so that they can deliver agricultural innovations that better respond to the needs and priorities of a diversity of women and men across Africa’s agricultural value chains. [www.awardfellowships.org](http://www.awardfellowships.org).

**Agropolis Fondation** is a French scientific foundation established in 2007 which promotes, through research and higher education, the development and sharing of knowledge in the service of stakeholders in agriculture and sustainable development. [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr)

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