

ISSBD Developing Country Fellowships

The ISSBD Executive Committee has approved a continuation of the successful Developing Country Fellowships (DCFs) scheme. The aim is to encourage sustainable development of activities congruent with the aims of ISSBD in developing countries, and assist the professional development of early career scholars in such countries. Eligible members of ISSBD are invited to apply for these.

WHAT DOES A DCF PROVIDE?

Each DCF will provide

- free conference attendance at the next ISSBD (including economy air fare and a subsistence allowance), and including one preconference workshop
- a support grant of \$1,500 per annum for the duration of the Fellowship, starting in the September following the ISSBD conference
- support from one or two Mentors
- provided satisfactory progress is made over the two years, free attendance at the subsequent ISSBD conference (including economy air fare and a subsistence allowance), and including one preconference workshop.

WHY ATTENDANCE AT THE ISSBD CONFERENCES?

The selected Fellows will present detailed plans for their work, at the first conference they are sponsored to attend. This will be at a dedicated Poster Workshop, at which the Fellows can meet each other, and also the completing Fellows from the previous tranche, together with members of the Selection Committee, and ISSBD committee members (and open to others). The presentation should include not only academic plans, but details of what professional support and local and/or national co-operation is available, and how the Fellowship funds can be used productively. The session would allow constructive feedback of plans presented and initiate shared experience amongst the Fellows.

Provided progress is satisfactory, the results can be presented at the conference two years later.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DCFs?

Fellows should be early career researchers (that is, normally within 10 years of their first or higher degree), and must be a member of ISSBD (at least once selected as a Fellow). They should have a post in a host country that is a developing country as defined by ISSBD membership criteria (so entitled to a reduced membership fee), and normally they should be a citizen of this host country.

WHO HOLDS THE EXISTING DCFs?

The 2 current Fellows, their project titles, and ISSBD mentors, are:

Joachim Nyoni

Early Childhood Education Directorate, Lusaka, Zambia

Research project: “A Participatory Action Research Project on Family Needs: Experiences of Formal and Informal Support Services available among Zambian Families for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders”

Mentor: Cleonice Bosa

Lavinia Cheie

Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Research project “Left behind or thriving? Different outcomes of parental migration in ‘left behind’ school-children: the role of cognitive vulnerability”

Mentor: Silvia Koller

WHAT WILL THE SELECTION PANEL LOOK FOR?

Besides the eligibility criteria, the panel will look at the project that the DCF will support. While academic soundness is one important criterion, also very important are feasibility, and the likely practical benefits of the work. The project should be a potentially sustainable one, with benefits for the holder, the institution and for sections of the country’s population, in line with the general aims of ISSBD.

WHAT CAN THE SUPPORT FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The support grant should be used for research related purposes, such as buying equipment, test materials, books, or computing facilities, or for essential travel within the country.

While the funds available are limited, it is hoped that the DCF can ‘pump prime’ activities and possibly applications for further support elsewhere.

IS A DCF FOR A PERSON OR FOR AN INSTITUTION?

A bit of both. A DCF is a Fellowship, and it is awarded to a particular person; but their project at a particular institution and in a particular context is part of the selection criteria. The intention is to assist in the development of a sustainable and socially useful research project, in a specific area, probably involving other local or national organisations. Thus it will not normally be possible to transfer a DCF to a different institution, if the holder moves. Any non-consumable items should be considered the property of the project, not the individual, and should stay with the host institution or project unless otherwise agreed.

HOW WILL THE FINANCES BE ORGANISED?

Once selected, a Fellow will attend the next ISSBD conference, and (with the other DCFs) present his/her plans. Commencement of the Support Grant funding is conditional on satisfactory plans being presented at this ISSBD conference.

The Support Grant funds will be paid on a yearly basis, in advance. The second year funding is conditional on a satisfactory progress report. Wherever possible the funds will be paid directly to the Fellow, in his/her preferred currency (with ISSBD covering any currency transaction costs), but in a specific account opened for the purpose. A record should be kept of all expenditure.

This funding is for 2 years. Normally, a DCF will not be continued beyond two years, although the regulations do allow an application for one further 2-year period..

WHAT OTHER SUPPORT WILL A DCF HAVE?

Each DCF will be assigned a Mentor, who will be a member of the DCF selection panel, or some other senior member of ISSBD. S/he will act as first point of contact with the Society, and be available to advise the Fellow in the design and implementation of their program.

WHO IS ON THE SELECTION PANEL?

The panel is chaired by

Peter K Smith (Goldsmiths, University of London, U.K.; p.smith@gold.ac.uk).

Currently, the other panel members are:

Catherine Cooper (USA; ccooper@ucsc.edu);

Silvia Koller (Brazil; silvia.koller@gmail.com);

Suman Verma (India; suman992003@yahoo.com);

Anne Petersen (USA; annepete@umich.edu.com).

HOW DO I APPLY?

Information, and an application form, are available on the ISSBD website [download].

They can also be obtained from the chair (p.smith@gold.ac.uk) or other members of the selection panel, who can also be approached for further information or advice.

Applications should be sent to the Chair of the Selection Panel, preferably by email, or by post (Peter K Smith, Dept. of Psychology, Goldsmiths College, New Cross, London SE14 6NW, U.K.).

For this new round of DCFs, applications must be received by Monday **December 16th 2019**. Decisions will be announced in January 2020. Presentations would then be made at the 26th Biennial ISSBD meeting, in Rhodes, Greece, in June 2020.