

FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION (RTA) PROJECT: Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour

Evaluation Process and Criteria for the Fellowships and Seed Grants

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1 Funding Principles

The current USDOL project aims to address existing knowledge gaps and engage researchers from a variety of disciplines in issues of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking. The research fellowship and seed grant aim to develop capacity of early career researchers, particularly from the Global South, female, and underrepresented population in the research community. The project hopes to provide financial resources, institutional support, and opportunity to link fellowship and seed grant recipients to skilled researchers to develop longer term involvement in the current research area.

The policy research fellowship will award three recipients for up to \$18,000 USD each for a period of 12 months. The seed grant will award ten research proposals for a maximum of \$10,000 USD each for a period of 9 months.

The following are the key principles of assessment:

1. Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the eligibility and evaluation criteria prior to submitting an application.
2. We rely on a fair and transparent peer review evaluation from our assessors.
3. The process from application submission to evaluation is carried out in a confidential manner. Assessors are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.
4. Where a conflict of interest is identified, the relevant application will be reassigned to another assessor.
5. Assessors are advised to consider equitable geographic distribution and gender-balance in selecting award recipients.

The project proposal will be evaluated by the scientific committee of the project. The committee will make decision on the fellowship and seed grant by May 2021. The start date of the fellowship and seed grant projects are negotiable within the first month of the award date.

2 Conditions of the award

The institution hosting the policy research fellow will be issued with an implementation agreement, with the fellow stated as the key personnel. Please refer to the template implementation agreement [here](#). Depending on COVID-19 travel restrictions, the policy research fellow may have the opportunity to present at ILO HQ in Geneva. Travel and board expenses will be covered under project funds.

The seed grant is awarded to the project, regardless of the size of the research team. In case of relocation, no compensation will be provided. The principal applicant will be issued with an external collaborator contract.

The selection of proposals and attribution of seed grants and fellowships are subject to funds availability and the approval of extension of the RTA project by the Donor to cover the duration of the research activity.

The ILO reserves the right to disqualify any entry that contains hurtful, misleading, libellous or vulgar content, or that contains any material that could constitute or encourage conduct which would be considered a criminal offence, give rise to civil liability, or otherwise violate any national or international law or ILO standards.

3 Eligibility criteria for the policy research fellowship

Individuals who:

- have completed a PhD and are affiliated with a university or research institute; or
- are enrolled in a PhD program in social sciences, development economics, statistics, or related fields; or
- have completed a master's degree with five years of relevant research and teaching experience and are affiliated with a university or research institute.

The proposed advisor must have been awarded a PhD or a master's degree with equivalent research experiences and affiliated with a university or research institute.

4 Eligibility criteria for the seed grant

Individuals who:

- have completed a PhD and are affiliated with a university or research institute; or
- are enrolled in a PhD or master's program in social sciences, development economics, statistics, or related fields

The proposed advisor must have been awarded a PhD or a master's degree with equivalent research experiences and affiliated with a university or research institute.

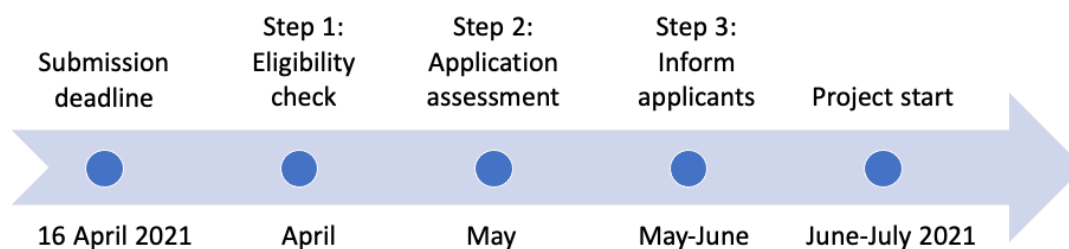
5 Evaluation Process and Timeline

The evaluation process is designed to identify scientific excellence regardless of gender, nationality, disability, age, institution and other forms of biases. The scientific committee includes members covering different disciplines within social sciences and humanities.

The evaluation process includes three main steps:

1. The ILO executive team checks whether the application package adheres to the Call for Proposal. The application is assigned to assessors by their areas of expertise;
2. The assessors evaluate the assigned applications and allocate points following the evaluation criteria. The assessors will convene to discuss a shortlist of proposals;
3. A ranked list of applications is recommended for the research fellowship and seed grant. Award offers are made.

The following outlines the evaluation timeframe:



Evaluation Criteria:

Evaluation components	Score (Total=100%)
<p>Quality and feasibility of the research proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate innovation potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contribution to the literature ○ Appropriate research methods ○ Consideration of inter-disciplinary approaches and ethical/gender issues • Add knowledge to policy actions • Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the priority research themes (child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking) • Schedule appropriate milestones and timeline 	40%
<p>Impact of the fellowship/seed grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrate potential synergies and collaborations with ILO and/or IOM • Present research to the academic community (e.g. lecture, seminar, workshop, conference, etc.) • Promote research to a broader audience (e.g. public, NGOs, policymakers) 	20%
<p>Training and career development of the applicant(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research experience and results (based on CV, teaching, publication record, contributed work) • Potential to acquire new research and career-related skills • Potential to conduct further research on the priority themes 	20%
<p>Host institution support and training priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from the proposed supervisor and the host university/research institution (e.g. frequent meetings, seminar presentation opportunities) • Host expertise in training independent researchers and liaising with non-academic partners (e.g. NGOs, governments, statistical offices) 	20%

6 Priority research areas

- The role of development programs and policies in reducing child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking;
- Understanding risk factors and protective factors for vulnerability to child labour, forced labour, and victims of human trafficking;
- Evidence on ‘what works or what does not’, in terms of the impact of national and local government policy intervention on fighting against child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking;
- The interlinkages between the COVID crisis and child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking;
- The role of technology and AI in combatting child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking (e.g. monitoring and measurement);
- Methodological, measurement, and sampling issues on child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking;
- Economic and social costs of child labour, forced labour, and human trafficking;
- Analysis of human trafficking using the [Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative \(CTDC\)](#) dataset.