

2017 GBIF Young Researchers Award

Call for Proposals

Purpose

The GBIF Governing Board has established the Young Researchers Award to foster innovative research and discovery in biodiversity informatics by graduate students who are working with GBIF-enabled data in master's and doctoral studies.

In 2017, the programme intends to make two awards of **€5,000**, one to a master's student and one to a PhD student.

In previous years, the YRAs have sought to encourage innovative uses of biodiversity data mobilized through the GBIF network. Building on recent updates (<http://www.gbif.org/newsroom/news/sample-based-data>) to the Darwin Core standard (<https://demo.gbif.org/publishing/darwin-core>), the 2017 awards will recognize efforts by students to share data from their ecological research activities as new open-access [sampling-event datasets](#) available through GBIF.org.

Applicants should prepare datasets showing measures of abundance for a focus set of species from multiple sites and/or dates. They then must publish these datasets as sampling-event datasets through the GBIF network, whether through existing institutional or national data publishing mechanisms or through a GBIF-operated publishing tool (contact GBIF Secretariat via youngresearchersaward@gbif.org for details). Metadata for the dataset should be complete and enable users to understand the content and limitations of the dataset. Datasets will be considered eligible even if the usual GBIF endorsement process has not been completed.

More guidance can be found through the appropriate GBIF national delegation or by emailing the GBIF Secretariat at youngresearchersaward@gbif.org.

Pensoft Publishers (<http://pensoft.net>) have generously offered to waive any publication fees for data papers submitted by the YRA winners for their datasets. Pensoft recently introduced a workflow for converting data paper manuscripts from EML metadata into the *Biodiversity Data Journal* (see <http://blog.pensoft.net/2016/05/18/how-to-import-data-papers-from-gbif-data-one-and-lter-metadata> and <http://arpha.pensoft.net/tips.php?tip=24>).

Learn more about data papers

- <http://demo.gbif.org/publishing-data/data-papers>
- http://riojournal.com/articles.php?id=12431&instance_id=3306548

Student eligibility, submission procedures and deadlines

Graduate students must be enrolled in a university's masters or doctoral programme to be eligible to submit a proposal to the GBIF Young Researcher Award programme. Students must apply through and be nominated by a Head of Delegation (HoD) of a GBIF Participant country. The list of GBIF Participants is available at: <http://www.gbif.org/contact/directoryofcontacts>.

GBIF's national Participant delegations are responsible for setting and announcing their own deadlines and processes for student submissions. They are also responsible for reviewing, selecting and submitting nominations to the GBIF Secretariat. The HoD from any GBIF Voting or Associate Participant country may submit a **maximum of two proposals**. HoDs must submit nominations via email to youngresearchersaward@GBIF.org. **The deadline for submissions of proposals is 15 July 2017.**

Heads of Delegations must ensure that their submissions include the elements listed under paragraph 4 below. Submissions of incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Preparation of student proposals for the nomination packet

Students should prepare their proposal according to the following format:

- 1) **Summary of Research Project** (200 words) – short description of the goals of the research activity associated with the dataset.
- 2) **Dataset URL** – location from which the review panel can access the dataset, which should include complete metadata describing the data, and be structured as a valid sampling-event dataset.
- 3) **Curriculum vitae** of the student applicant including full contact information at the home institution.
- 4) **Supporting documents**
 - a) An official letter from the student's faculty mentor/supervisor certifying that the applicant is a student in good standing in the graduate programme of the university.
 - b) At least one, and no more than three, letters of support from established researchers active in a field that encompasses and incorporates biodiversity informatics (e.g., genetics, species composition and traits, biogeography, ecology, systematics, etc.), see more at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodiversity_informatics.

GBIF Proposal Review and Award

A jury comprised of representatives from the GBIF network, GBIF Science Committee and ecology-data experts will review the nomination submissions and select the winners by end of August 2017.

The jury will evaluate submitted datasets based on the completeness and quality of the data and associated descriptive metadata, and GBIF expects to announce the awardees at its Governing Board meeting in Helsinki in September 2017.