GLOBAL BIOFUELS ALLIANCE

GLOBAL BIOFUEL CHAMPION FELLOWSHIP (GBCF)

"Fueling Global Change Through Biofuel Leadership



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The Global Biofuels Alliance is a multi-stakeholder alliance comprising 32 countries and 14 international organizations, working together to advance biofuels as a vital element of the global clean energy transition

The Global Biofuels Alliance launched the Global Biofuel Champion Fellowship (GBCF) with the objective of addressing critical biofuel challenges through research engagement and nurturing a pool of dynamic young biofuel leaders. The fellowship will focus on solving real-world problems and identifying implementable solutions.

A. OBJECTIVE

- Develop a pool of dynamic and young biofuel leaders.
- Solve critical biofuel challenges through engagement with researchers and industries.
- Assign fellows as ambassadors of the Global Biofuels Alliance.

B. FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

Duration 1-year program

Number of Fellowships Up to 20 fellows per year

Eligibility

Students enrolled in Master's or PhD degree in academic or research institutions with at least one year remaining in their course at the time of application, researchers at NGOs/think-tanks with a strong interest and background in biofuels, bioenergy, environment, and sustainable development.

Endorsement by an academic/research institution, NGO, or think tank: While application(s) with research proposals can be submitted by an individual or a team, every submission must carry an endorsement from a recognized institution.

The Fellowship is open to applicants from any country, but preference will be given to candidates from The Global Biofuels Alliance Member Countries. No application fee is charged.

- The fellowship is intended to **support existing research** being undertaken by students and researchers, while empowering them with financial and knowledge resources to scale up their work and generate meaningful impact for policymakers, industries, and governments.

- The program will also include two dedicated committees

  A **jury committee** of 5 eminent researchers in the biofuels domain, responsible for evaluating final applications and selecting fellows.

  A **mentorship committee** of 8 global experts who will guide and supervise fellows throughout the fellowship period.





C. THEMATIC AREAS FOR FELLOWSHIP

The main emphasis of the research should be to address specific real-world problems and search for implementable solutions in infrastructure sectors. Below mentioned themes provide few indicative areas to give an idea of the type of research the program may support.

Process Innovation, Effectiveness, and Improvement

Research focusing on enhancing operational efficiency and innovation. For example, projects may explore innovative approaches to develop innovative and sustainable feedstock variations, optimize biofuel production processes, such as adopting advanced catalytic technologies, optimizing cost in advanced biofuels technologies, reducing resource consumption, streamlining supply chain, etc.

Environmental Sustainability and Carbon Market

Research could study gaps in current practices, undertake comparative lifecycle analysis to quantify carbon footprints and explore sustainable feedstock sourcing strategies. Projects may examine methodologies to integrate biofuels projects with carbon credit markets and devise innovative mechanisms to support carbon reduction targets

Policy, Community, and Social Impact

Research can revolve around analysis and success of historical policies, potential design of future frameworks for achieving net-zero goals. Projects may investigate societal impact of adoption of biofuels such as benefits to farmers and domestic economy, global impacts of feedstock sourcing on different communities, need of social support for adoption and analysis of biofuels mandates on underserved communities

Strategic Partnerships and Business Models

This theme supports proposal on commercial frameworks to accelerate biofuel deployment and sustainability. We prioritize projects that design novel business models with significant cost savings and new revenue streams. Analysis of key strategic partnerships needed to scale these innovations and drive market growth is also encouraged

Market Competitiveness

Projects may include market analysis to identify gaps and trends in market or studies on the cost-competitiveness of biofuels against fossil fuels and other renewables. Project can investigate into the economic benefits of adoption in key sectors like aviation and shipping. Additional areas include analyzing investment models, financial risks, and the economics of infrastructure and supply chains to enhance commercial feasibility in the global energy market..

Possible Activities Fellowship Funds Could Support

- Procuring specialized datasets, software, or tools needed for applied research.
- Conducting pilot experiments or proof-of-concept studies.
- Purchase of small laboratory equipment, consumables, and chemicals needed for experiments
- Travel support for industrial visits, or fieldwork in collaboration with companies.
- Participation in policy roundtables, advisory panels, or regulatory consultations.
- Attending conferences (domestic/international) to present applied research.
- Visiting research labs or universities for collaborative studies.
- Preparing policy briefs, white papers, or technical reports targeted at industry/government.
- Organizing dissemination webinars showcasing research outcomes.
- Prototype or pilot-scale development of technologies emerging from research.
- Engaging with incubators or accelerators for applied research outcomes.

Ineligible Expenses

- Purchase of personal assets such as laptops, tablets, or mobile phones.
- Routine living expenses (rent, food, personal travel, etc.).
- Salary, stipend, or honorarium for the fellow or mentors.
- Entertainment, hospitality, or non-research-related expenses.
- Expenditures not directly linked to approved research activities.

Approval Process for Fellowship Expenditure

- For fund requests up to USD 500 per activity: Approval from the faculty mentor and Director, Technical The Global Biofuels Alliance will suffice.
- For fund requests exceeding USD 500 per activity: Prior approval from The Global Biofuels Alliance Secretariat will be required.

JURY COMMITTEE



Prof. Mohamed Pourkashanian OBE
University of Sheffield (United Kingdom)



Prof. Glaucia Mendes Souza
University of São Paulo (Brazil)



Prof. Jason P. Hallett
Imperial College London (United Kingdom)



Prof. Daniela Thrän
University of Leipzig *(Germany)*



Prof. Vinu Ravikrishnan
Indian Institute of Technology Madras (India)

MENTOR COMMITTEE



Prof. David Chiaramonti

Polytechnic of Turin
(Italy)



Dina Bacovsky

BEST – Bioenergy and Sustainable Technologies
(Austria)



Dr. Kaustubha Mohanty, Ph.D.

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
(India)



Prof. Jian Shi

University of Kentucky
(United States)



Prof. Daya Pandey

University of Leeds
(UK)



Prof. Kwang Ho Kim

University of British Columbia
(Canada)



Prof. Annie Chimphango

Stellenbosch University
(South Africa)



Prof. Anushree Malik, FBRS

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
(India)

D. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process for research proposals under this program consists of four structured stages designed to ensure transparency, objectivity, and alignment with strategic objectives

Step 1: Online Application Submission

Researchers are required to submit their proposals online via the The Global Biofuels Alliance website, adhering strictly to the specified format and guidelines.

Step 2: Desk Screening by GBA Secretariat

The Global Biofuels Alliance Secretariat will conduct an initial screening of submitted proposals to verify completeness, guideline compliance, and eligibility. During this stage, proposals are assessed for relevance to the program's thematic areas, initial feasibility, and their potential contribution toward solving practical challenges in biofuels value chain.

Step 3: Double-Blind Peer Review by Mentor Committee

Proposals that successfully pass the desk screening will undergo a double-blind peer review process conducted by a Mentor Committee. Committee members are selected domain experts tasked with providing impartial assessments driven by their combined experience. The committee will shortlist top projects based on the prescribed criteria.

Step 4: Final Shortlisting by Jury

In the final stage, proposals recommended by the Mentor Committee are reviewed by Jury Committee. The Jury evaluates each proposal for strategic alignment with the program's objectives and other parameters as prescribed in the evaluation criteria.



Key Parameters for Selection

1. Project criteria

- Relevance of the research problem for The Global Biofuels Alliance
- Novelty of proposed method, experiments & solutions
- Practical viability of implementing the solution
- Scalability/Replicability of proposed solution
- Expected overall impact of the proposed solution

2. Personal criteria

- Total number of publications by the applicant(s)
- Number of citations of research publications by the applicant(s)
- Any awards/ letters of recommendation received during academic/ professional experience

Fellowship Timelines

- **Applications Open:** 10 November 2025
- **Application Deadline:** 31 December 2025
- **Application Review:** 1 January – 26 January 2026
- **Results Announcement:** 27 January 2026

Documents Required

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (2 pages)
- Research Proposal (up to 4 pages) outlining the problem statement, objectives, methodology, timelines, expected outcomes, and potential impact
- Letter of Endorsement from the applicant's institution supporting the fellowship application
- Letter of Support from the proposed mentor



Application Link



E. FELLOWSHIP GRANT STRUCTURE

a. The Global Biofuels Alliance will award a lump-sum grant of up to **US $15,000**. This covers all research costs and any taxes. Fellowship grant is provided as a single lump-sum amount, issued in two equal instalments of 50 percent each. This amount is inclusive of all costs, overheads for the endorsing institute, taxes, duties, etc. The institute/organization which issues the Letter of Endorsement may be paid an administrative overhead of up to 15% of the Fellowship grant. This is included in the Fellowship grant.

b. If the research fellow(s) are invited by The Global Biofuels Alliance to any event, the cost of travel will be borne by The Global Biofuels Alliance.



F. GOVERNANCE OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

a. Successful applicants will be notified and information regarding subsequent administrative and implementation steps such as formal acceptance, submission of detailed workplan etc. to be communicated by The Global Biofuels Alliance.

b. Orientation program will be hosted to familiarize fellows with The Global Biofuels Alliance, program objectives and process. Fellows to be provided with the first installment of funding following successful completion of the orientation program (The fellowship amount will be transferred by The Global Biofuels Alliance to the host institution's account, which will then be disbursed into the fellow's account upon mentor approval)

c. First and second progress review meetings will be conducted at quarter ends to evaluate research progress against defined milestones and objectives, offering feedback for necessary adjustments

d. Second installment of the fellowship grant will be released upon satisfactory completion and approval of intermediate reviews

e. Third and fourth reviews to be scheduled to assess ongoing progress and ensure alignment with agreed milestones

f. Outcomes of all projects to be published in a prescribed format

G. PROJECT PROGRESS REVIEWS AND CLOSURE REPORT

Each submission must be accompanied by a detailed work plan. At the close of every quarter, teams prepare a self-assessment that compares planned activities with actual progress. These reports are monitored by the Global Biofuels Alliance Secretariat, and teams may be asked—either on-site or via video conference—to attend review sessions with an international jury.

After satisfactory performance in the final meeting, and by the end of 12th month, the project team will submit a project closure report. The project team is expected to acknowledge The Global Biofuels Alliance in the report and all research publications arising from the research. Research teams will also share an electronic copy of such publications with the Global Biofuels Alliance, which may be published on its website. We understand that some journals require special permission and payments for publishing in public domains, such cases will be decided on a case-by-case basis.





H. CANDIDATE BENEFITS

Global Networking

Opportunity to work with leading biofuel experts, industry leaders, and policymakers

Professional Exposure

Contribution to high-impact Global Biofuels Alliance publications, events, and policy recommendations

Field Experience

Hands-on engagement with real-world biofuel challenges and innovative case studies

Financial Support

The Global Biofuels Alliance will award a lump-sum grant of up to US $15,000 and cover any travel costs for fellows invited to The Global Biofuels Alliance events



GLOBAL BIOFUELS ALLIANCE

Application Link

To know more, visit
biofuelsalliance.com