WORKING PLAN FOR UNU-BIOLAC FELLOW CANDIDATES FOR 2026

**(Please fill out in English only)**

Applicants for any *2026 UNU-BIOLAC Fellowships Competitive Open Call* should be active graduate students, researchers, or innovators prepared and committed to receiving advanced training in Biotechnology *sensu stricto* in highly reputed research centers.

UNU-BIOLAC encourages fellow candidates to delve into the many facets of Biotechnology to solve scientific problems or generate biotechnological solutions/products derived from basic or applied research.

Our Programme manages limited resources, which oblige us to exert careful and thoughtful selection of the best candidates to train the potentially best biotechnologists of our region who thus will be able to promote Biotechnology as a tool of social change, scientific advancement, and professional and personal growth in alignment with every Sustainable Development Goal. We expect that our selected fellows will multiply the fruits of this activity through a transferring-by-education undertaking related to the newly acquired knowledge or capability derived from this internship.

**IMPORTANT:** For the work developed at BIOLAC or promoted elsewhere by the Programme, *Biotechnology can be defined as the field of* *applied knowledge that arises from the intersection between basic biological sciences and technical and technological innovations to use organisms, their parts or their native processes to create something new that fulfill the previously perceived need that stimulated its creation*. Biotechnology can give rise to a tool that, employed later, can be used to produce a good or service, or it can directly be one of the latter two.

Generally, modern Biotechnology also requires applying scientific knowledge to understand why the processes and organisms it creates work the way they do. Almost always, Biotechnology opens doors to improve itself or make a novelty capable and prone to originate additional ones.

***Therefore, biotechnology requires living organisms, their parts or processes– together with the intention and knowledge of factual evidence that gives the entire process a genuinely creative nature– to give reality a novelty that could not occur or arise without human intervention.***

**Some examples of what Biotechnology is not:**

* Traditional Agriculture or Animal Husbandry and related fields
* Basic sciences
* Religious beliefs, political activism, or any kind of *coaching* disguised as science
* Alternative paradigms that rely on the use of rituals, stones, animals, or other elements of the natural world with the intent of manipulating the perception and/or interpretation of reality

For a helpful discussion on the matter, you might like to visit <https://iubmb.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/bmb.2004.494032040375>, where the following article (and access to many others) is granted:

**Dahms, A.S.** (2004), Biotechnology: What it is, what it is not, and the challenges in reaching a national or global consensus. *Biochem. Mol. Biol. Educ*., 32: 271-278. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bmb.2004.494032040375>

Complete your proposal by carefully selecting the most informative and accurate answer for each of the following:

1. **Applicant’s Name**
2. **Training Title**
3. **Training Dates and Location**
4. **Training Objectives**
5. **Short introduction to the problem to be addressed**
6. **Overall Methodological Strategy (explained in a narrative form)**
7. **Working plan timeline (a well-designed Table will suffice)**
8. **Outline the expected transferring-by-education activities related to the newly acquired knowledge or capabilities to be carried out by the fellow after their internship.**

To be complete, your application must be accompanied by:

* Acceptance Letter from the Host Institution, signed by the Host tutor
* Fellow’s CV
* Supervisor’s and host tutor’s CVs
* Recommendation letter from the Local Supervisor or pertinent authority
* Completed Working Plan from the Fellow Candidate

Fellows selected from the pool of all Open Call of 2025 applicants will initiate their 3-month internships in 2026.

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| Please note that, with no exceptions, all stipend payments will be made at the start of the academic activities. Hence, all fellow candidates should consider covering their initial expenses before applying for the UNU-BIOLAC Fellowship Programme. |