

The UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) is pleased to announce the launch of its visiting fellowship programme. The target group for the programme is young researchers below 40 years of age, and holders of an advanced degree in a relevant area to IRC research. Interested candidates are encouraged to complete and submit their application by 10 September 2011. Information on the programme and eligibility requirements is listed below, and also on the IRC website at: <http://www.unicef-irc.org/aboutIRC/vacancies.html>

We would be grateful if you would kindly help us share this information with potential candidates.

Research Opportunities:

The Innocenti Research Centre (IRC) of UNICEF in Florence (Italy) invites young researchers to submit proposals for visiting fellowships in research areas related to UNICEF's mission and to the research agenda of the IRC. If selected, the young researchers will be invited to join IRC in Florence for a period of 3 to 6 months between 1 October 2011 and 31 March 2012. The visiting fellows will receive a stipend of Euro 3.000 per month intended to cover the costs of their stay in Florence. One round trip ticket from the place of residence to Florence in economy class will be paid by IRC. The Centre may contribute to the additional research costs for the projects, covering travel, data collection, conference participation and other research related costs. The maximum amount of the research costs covered shall not be higher than the total cost of the personal stipend over the contractual period.

The visiting fellows are expected to work on the research project they have submitted leading to research output in the form of an analytical paper, a report or another output to be agreed upon at the acceptance of the proposal. The visiting fellows are equally expected to participate in the scholarly activities of the research centre, such as seminars, discussions and workshops.

Research Areas:

UNICEF globally is seeking to better understand the policy and programming implications of an "equity" approach to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to development more broadly. Its work is guided by the Convention of the Rights of the Child and human rights approaches to children and young people.

The current research agenda of IRC includes research activities in the following main areas:

- Measuring (theory and practice) of child well-being: overall and in its separate aspects in rich-, middle income- and low income-countries; multidimensional poverty and deprivation analysis;
- Understanding the impact of social protection on the lives (well-being) of children in rich-, middle income- and low income-countries;
- The role of education in reaching the most excluded children in middle-income and poor countries;
- The impact of (international and internal) migration on children when left behind by their parents and when migrating with their parent(s); the impact of forced migration on children due to "land grabbing";
- Early childhood development and its contribution to outcomes for children in later life
- The impact of crises, and malnutrition and policy resources;
- Systems of child protection;
- New challenges to urban children
- The impact of changes in social norms on the level of protection for children.

The research agenda of the IRC is indicative: it does not limit the areas for which proposals can be made. IRC will consider new areas fitting the global mandate of UNICEF.

The Research Proposal:

Applicants are expected to submit a research proposal in English of not more than 3,000 words (list of references to be added separately). The proposal should include:

- A title and an abstract (including the author name)
- A research question and sub-questions;
- An assessment of the prior studies that addressed these questions and the intended contribution to be made by the proposed research project;
- A description of the methodology to be used, including eventually a description of the data to be used in the research, an assessment on the availability of the data or the procedure to collect or obtain them;
- A research plan with a timeline and a description of the end-product of the research;
- The names of two (2) researchers who are seen as leading scholars in the field of the research question(s);
- A budget is needed if specific research costs are going to be encountered. (There is no need to specify a budget for presentation of the study at conferences or for the fellowship itself);
- An indication of the person's availability for accepting the fellowship over the period 1 October 2011 – 31 March 2012.

Applicants are requested to complete and electronically submit the United Nations Personal History (P11) form available at <http://www.unicef.org/about/employ/files/P11.doc> simultaneously with the research proposal and a short letter of motivation. No application will be considered if all documents are not submitted before the deadline. The proposals should be submitted no later than 10 September 2011.

The Applicants:

The fellowships are open to researchers not older than 40 years at the start of the fellowship who have an advanced degree (preferably a PhD) in a field relevant to the research proposal. The applicants should be available to be (nearly) full-time in Florence for the period for which they have accepted the fellowship, and should have no other major obligations during that period.

The IRC especially (but not exclusively) welcomes proposals from applicants originating in middle- or low-income countries.

The Procedure:

The deadline for submitting the research proposal is **10 September 2011**. The proposals should be submitted electronically *only* to the following email address: florecerecruitment@unicef.org (quoting "Research Fellowship IRC").

Any queries related to the fellowship should be directed to the same email address, and will be directed to the appropriate staff at IRC.