

2018–2020 Antarctica Fellowship: FAQs

What does the Baillet Latour Antarctica Fellowship offer to young polar scientists?

The Fellowship was created to promote research activities at or in the vicinity of Princess Elisabeth Antarctica research station. The Fellowship awards €150,000 to a young scientist to conduct a research project in Antarctica over a two-year period. These funds cover two field campaigns during two austral summers including all academic and research costs, living and travel expenses as well as logistics costs.

Where in Antarctica is PEA located?

Princess Elisabeth Station is located in the Sør Rondane Mountain Range, Dronning Maud Land (East-Antarctica). The station lies at 71° 57' S and 23° 20' E, 220 km due South from the edge of the ice shelf.

What is the Baillet Latour Fund?

The Baillet Latour Fund was set up as a result of the joint efforts of the Comte de Baillet Latour and the Artois Breweries in Belgium. In 1974, the Comte Baillet Latour, being without heirs, donated his important holding in Artois Brewery shares to the Fund, which bears his name. An enlightened man, the Comte was particularly keen on setting up an instrument to encourage human excellence in all possible fields. In a letter explaining his desire to make a lasting contribution to the greater social good he stated that:

“The association shall financially reward and encourage accomplishments of high human value in the social, cultural, scientific, artistic, technical, sporting, educational or philanthropic fields, in the form of prizes, scholarships, trips, grants, or any other form of recognition, and have no political, trade union, philosophical or religious affiliations.” Comte Baillet Latour

Who can apply?

The Fellowship is open post-doctoral and doctoral researchers within 10 years of obtaining a PhD.

Can researchers from any research organization in the world apply?

Absolutely, the Fellowship is open to researchers of any nationality from anywhere in the world to promote international research collaboration at Princess Elisabeth station.

How can I submit an application?

There is a dedicated web page where applicants can find all details regarding the fellowship and download the application package (Application file and Financial Annex) necessary to apply. Applicants must satisfactorily demonstrate why their research must be conducted in Antarctica and why their research project is new and original. Applicants must send completed application forms directly to the Fellowship Secretariat: fellowship@polarfoundation.org

What is the deadline for submission?

The Fellowship Secretariat must receive applications no later than 15 May 2018 (midnight CET). Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

How will proposals be evaluated?

Proposals meeting all eligibility criteria undergo a two-stage evaluation procedure. The first stage evaluation is carried out by an international scientific Jury which evaluates each proposal on the basis of its scientific merit. Proposals short-listed by this Jury will undergo a second stage evaluation by the Antarctica Fellowship Committee. This second stage evaluation considers the more practical aspects of the project, and will result in the selection of the next laureate.

What scientific equipment is available at PEA?

Some basic equipment such as hand held ice drills are available for general use at Princess Elisabeth. However, more specialized equipment must be provided at the laureates own cost. More details on what is available will be discussed with the winning candidate.

How far from the station can the field work take place?

The station lies 220 km due South from the edge of the ice shelf. Research activities may extend to this coastal area. Distance from the station is not an eligibility criterion. The location of the planned field work will be evaluated by the Jury in terms of scientific relevance and by the Fellowship Committee in terms of its feasibility.

Who will be my employer?

The Fellowship's objective is to provide young doctoral and post-doctoral researchers with funds to carry out field research at the station in the framework of their current research project (field campaigns are to be carried out in the Antarctic summer seasons of November 2018 – February 2019 and November 2019 – February 2020). The laureate's employer thus remains his/her current research organisation.

In the budget, how much does transport to Antarctica and accommodation account for?

Flights to Antarctica will be provided by the Dronning Maud land Air Network (DROMLAN) and tariffs are set on an annual basis relating to fuel costs. Cargo can be shipped by sea or air depending on the timing of the winning laureate's arrival at the station. Researchers should count in preparing their project budget between €25.000 and €35.000 per person per field campaign (total €50.000 - €70.000 per person for two field campaigns) for transport to and from Antarctica and accommodation. Cargo and logistics costs will depend on the type of activity planned.

How will transfer of fund occur?

The modalities of project payments and reporting, as well as financial control, will be fixed by a contract to be drawn up on a case by case basis with the successful applicant. The decision concerning the beneficiary of the payment will be made when the contract is signed. The grant cannot be split amongst several beneficiary organisations or individuals. The principle investigator for all intents and purposes receives the Fellowship and is the face of the project for communication purposes.

In completing the budget section of the submission form, should I include the project's total budget or only the budget to be covered by the Baillet Latour Antarctica Fellowship?

The table to be completed within the Financial Annex should only include costs covered by the award to provide details on how costs will be allocated. An additional annex may be added to include information concerning other funds to be used for the project.