



iDiv – Call for Sabbatical Project Proposals

1 General information

Please thoroughly read about the **general mission and ideas** behind iDiv [here](#) as they are important and helpful for framing a successful proposal.

Interactions and scientific involvement of iDiv visiting scientists are central mechanisms, which contribute to iDiv's mission to be a leading biodiversity research center. iDiv sabbatical researchers play an important role in contributing to the iDiv mission through their intellectual and social interactions, in which they share their vision, experience and passion for biodiversity research. The sabbatical programme is designed to attract scientists in biodiversity research **for one year or shorter stays**.

Senior researchers of any nationality holding a position in an academic institution, free-standing research institution, scientific society, governmental or policy agency, or non-governmental organization are generally eligible and highly welcome to submit a proposal. **We especially encourage people from all [underrepresented regions](#) to apply.**

Sabbatical Fellows need to have at least one iDiv full member as a host. The list of current iDiv members is provided on the [iDiv website](#). Sabbatical researchers are expected to spend the majority of time in residence at iDiv or one of our partner institutions during their fellowship. All topics in biodiversity research are welcome, ranging from biology to social or computer sciences, and should be tightly linked to the [key research areas](#) of iDiv and/or [iDiv's scientific mission](#). Sabbatical projects may include a reasonable amount of lab or fieldwork.

To ensure mutual benefits and efficient communication between iDiv scientists and sDiv sabbatical researchers, sabbaticals are expected to **be an integral part of the iDiv community**. This could include, for example, giving formal and informal presentations on their research, initiating new projects, and participating in the mentorship of PhDs and postdocs (see [iDiv's Early Career Researcher Program](#)). The host should prepare a meaningful hosting plan with focus on integration across iDiv and at the host's institutions if the main place of work is planned to be in Halle or Jena, for example.

The Sabbatical programme is quite flexible in terms of timing, project topics, and ideas on how to integrate into the iDiv community.

iDiv follows fair & open data and code principles and supports you in all aspects of data management.



2 iDiv funding

Sabbatical projects need to finish no later than 20 December 2025. Funding should reflect the additional costs needed to come to Leipzig or offset salary losses. iDiv provides a monthly stipend of max. 3500 € depending on other funding sources, location and needs. If applicable a monthly child allowance (400 € for the first, 100 € for each additional child) will be granted as well as an individual or family round trip (from/to residence to/from Leipzig). For more detailed information on average living expenses in Leipzig contact luise.dietel@idiv.de

Leipzig University, as the formal institution behind iDiv, will sign a fellowship agreement with the sabbatical scientist for the time being at iDiv.

3 Proposal evaluation

Sabbatical researchers are selected from applications made directly to this programme, or are invited by iDiv members. The iDiv sabbatical board currently consists of 6 members of leading biodiversity scientists from each of the four iDiv founding institutions (Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Leipzig University, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ)

4 Reporting

Upon completion of their sabbatical stay, the iDiv sabbatical researcher is obliged to provide a final report. Sabbatical researchers are encouraged to have regular meetings with their iDiv collaborators and to take part in the lab meetings. The main objective of the sabbatical researcher, however, will be to produce publications (ideally high-impact) or other high-impact products. After finishing the sabbatical project iDiv will ask if the former sabbatical researcher can be included in the iDiv Alumni network and may also ask to support iDiv when e.g. reviewers are needed for sDiv proposals.

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