

Criteria for the evaluation of applications for iDiv membership

General principles

1. The iDiv bylaws regulate iDiv membership.
2. The criteria for iDiv membership evaluation are supposed to help the SSB decide objectively about membership applications.
3. The membership criteria evaluation needs to be consistent with the iDiv bylaws.

What do the iDiv's bylaws say about full members?

Scientists can be accepted as full members, if

1. employed in the participating institutions (hosting or partner institutions), and
2. independent/senior scientists who can represent iDiv in their institutions, and
3. have proven scientific excellence (usually through employability for a professorship), and
4. internationally recognised scientists, who work integratively and collaboratively, have expertise relevant to iDiv and contribute to iDiv's mission.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria match closely each of the items mentioned in the bylaws as necessary conditions for full membership, with criteria 1, 3 and 4 meeting conditions 1, 2 and 3, respectively and criteria 2 and 5 meeting condition 4.

Criterion 1: Employed by one of the institutions of the iDiv consortium

The institutions of the iDiv consortium: Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Leipzig University, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Max Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry, Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leibniz Institute German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures, Leibniz Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research, Leibniz Institute Senckenberg Museum of Natural History.

Criterion 2: Expertise relevant to iDiv

Scientific expertise relevant to iDiv can be proven by a recent record of publications (first- or co-authorship) or a successful proposal for third-party funding (PI or Co-PI) in a discipline directly related to biodiversity research (e.g., ecology, evolutionary biology, systematics) or in a more distant discipline with clear applications in biodiversity research (e.g., computer science, geography, agronomy, forestry, psychology, economics).

Criterion 3: Independent/senior scientists who can represent iDiv in their institutions

We consider senior scientists and group leaders with typically more than six years of contracts in research after PhD (exceptions possible), professors, heads of departments and institute directors as independent/senior scientists who can represent iDiv in their institutions.

Independent/senior scientists who can represent iDiv in their institutions
Senior scientist, group leaders, professors, heads of departments, institute directors
Scientists with potentially high impact representing iDiv in their institutions
Professors, heads of departments, institute directors

Criterion 4: Scientists who have proven scientific excellence (usually through employability for a professorship)

We consider the typical requirements concerning publication record, third party funding and teaching to start a habilitation process at the Universities of Leipzig, Halle or Jena as an indication if a researcher has proven scientific excellence and could be appointed for a professorship.

Publication record

An excellent publication record is usually documented by several publications as the main (first, second or senior) author during the last five years. Depending on the research domain, these are typically at least five to ten (although high quality as assessed by impact factor and/or number of citations can be more important than the exact number of publications) peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals, conference proceedings, or book chapters. Co-authorships and other publications can balance missing main authorships. Typically three co-authorships balance one main authorship; while, e.g., a book as main author balances three main authorships.

Third-party funding

Application success for third-party funding is typically documented by a successful proposal as main-PI or several successful proposals as Co-PI during the last five years.

Teaching

Teaching activities are typically documented by a relevant number of semester lecture hours (in sum about 15, on average 1.5 semester lecture hours per semester) or the supervision (also on behalf of the official supervisor) of several PhD, Master, or Bachelor theses (in decreasing order of importance) during the last five years.

Criterion 5: Internationally recognised scientists, who work integratively and collaboratively and contribute to iDiv's mission

iDiv's mission:

1. provide international leadership and support collaborative research on the generation, maintenance and change of biodiversity and its functions from local to global scales
2. use this knowledge to engage with policymakers and the public to preserve, restore and sustainably use our planet's biodiversity

Internationally recognised scientists

Documented by external evaluation, e.g. high quality papers of importance with high impact in the respective research field.

An integrative and collaborative approach to scientific work

Integrative and collaborative work, such as networking, community building/work, can be documented by essential contributions to synergistic activities promoting integration (e.g., developing and maintaining platforms or databases for collaborative research, running integrative working groups, leading or substantially supporting grant applications for collaborative research), or by relevant contributions to iDiv related projects (e.g., the Jena Experiment, AquaDiva, Flora Inkognita, Biodiversity Exploratories, but also FluxNet, NutNet, GEO BON), to biodiversity monitoring by NGOs, or to social sciences related to

integrative biodiversity research, , or by generic services to the scientific community (e.g. review boards, selection bodies), during the last five years.

Contribution to iDiv's mission: science policy, outreach or capacity building

Significant engagement in activities related to policy advice (e.g. IPBES, BMBF Faktencheck), or stakeholder involvement (e.g., conservation projects with co-design) or significant contributions to the visibility of integrated biodiversity research by media coverage, public talks, YouTube, exhibitions, etc. or to capacity building concerning integrated biodiversity research (e.g. capacity building projects) during the last five years.

Contribution to iDiv's mission: active participation in iDiv

Members and non-members can prove interest in iDiv by participation in iDiv related projects (e.g. contribution to iDiv proposal, involvement in sDiv working groups, Flexpool proposals or projects, yDiv, administrative bodies, review work for sDiv or Flexpool, etc.).

Contribution to iDiv's mission: promoting the diversity of iDiv

- Scientific disciplines underrepresented in iDiv (e.g., social or computer science),
- Ethnicity, internationality,
- Gender (e.g. female scientists are underrepresented in iDiv),
- etc.

Acceptance for full membership: Criteria 1 and 2 fulfilled. At least one requirement fulfilled for each criterion 3 to 5 and in sum, at least five requirements fulfilled in 3 to 5.