



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 groups to apply.**

Sabbatical researchers need to have at least one iDiv member as a scientific collaborator involved in their project(s). 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. It is also possible to organize small working group meetings under sDiv support as part of the project.

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.

2 Proposal preparation

Projects should not start before 2023. However, iDiv's sabbatical programme is quite flexible in terms of timing, project topics, and ideas on how to integrate into the iDiv community. Funding should reflect the additional costs needed to come to Leipzig or offset salary losses. Expenses for the journey to Leipzig and back (from/to residence) will be



covered for the sabbatical fellow, accompanying spouse and children. A monthly stipend and if applicable a child allowance (400 € for the first, 100 € for each additional child) will be provided. In total this should not exceed 4000 € per month (without travel costs). In order to assess your expenses during your stay in Leipzig, find more information on living costs in Germany [here](#) and [here](#). Contact administrative assistant Luise Dietel via luise.dietel@idiv.de about any funding and organizational questions. Leipzig University, as the formal institution behind iDiv, will sign a fellowship agreement with the sabbatical scientist for the time being at iDiv.

Please submit your pre-proposal **via the [iDiv application portal](#) by 31 January 2022**. Pre-proposal decisions will be made by mid-February. Pre-Proposals without an already identified and agreed [iDiv member](#) will not be evaluated. You will then have around 8 weeks time to submit your full proposal (template and further information will be provided). Final decisions will be made in May 2022.

3 Research data management

Upon invitation to submit a full proposal and submission of the resulting application, it is required that the data owners agree to make the data and code that result from iDiv funding publicly available. This should be achieved within 3 years after the end of the project. The sabbatical fellow will therefore be required to read and accept the iDiv Data Sharing and Data Portal Usage policies. These are currently undergoing revision, but in general follow widely accepted Open Science principles. Funded projects will receive intensive support in any needed code and data management demands by iDiv's Integrative Biodiversity Data and Code Support Unit.

4 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 GmbH – UFZ).

5 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.