

## sDiv – Call for Sabbatical Research Proposals

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### 1 About iDiv

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

### 2 Sabbatical programme

#### 2.1 General information

Interactions and scientific involvement of sDiv visiting scientists are central mechanisms which contribute to iDiv's mission to be a leading biodiversity research center. sDiv 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 leading scientists in biodiversity research for a period lasting between **three months and one year** (this can be split into several short-term periods).

Individuals 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.

**sDiv sabbatical researchers should have strong, well justified and specific ideas about their synthesis project(s) to be carried out during their stay at iDiv.** Sabbatical researchers are expected to spend the majority of time in residence at iDiv during their fellowship. All synthesis topics in biodiversity research are welcome, ranging from biology to social or computer sciences, and are preferably related to the [key research areas](#) of iDiv and/or [iDiv's scientific mission](#). **sDiv does not fund any field nor lab work, i.e. any additional data generation or sampling.**

To ensure mutual benefits and efficient communication between iDiv scientists and sDiv sabbatical researchers, sabbaticals are expected to **be an integral part of the sDiv community** as well as generally involved in iDiv activities. 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. **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](#). The [sDiv coordinator Marten Winter](#) can assist with finding and contacting suitable members.

## 2.2 Proposal preparation

Generally, sDiv's sabbatical programme is quite flexible in terms of timing, project topics, and ideas on how to integrate into the iDiv community. Sabbatical grants can be requested up to 4000 EUR per month, excluding travel costs and child allowance. Additional funding is subject to the approval of the sDiv board. Leipzig University, as the formal institution behind iDiv, will close a fellowship agreement with the sabbatical scientist for the time being at iDiv.

To submit your full proposal, complete the **template provided on the [sDiv call website](#)** and add all required documents. **Submit the full proposal via the [iDiv application portal](#) and upload all documents as a single PDF file before 13 March 2019 (14:00/2:00 PM CET).**

Applicants should outline synergistic interests and potential joint activities within iDiv. The proposal consists of a section providing general information, a brief summary, and a description of the state-of-the-art, an objectives section with reference to the applicant's overarching goals and criteria, a detailed work plan, a justified list of requested funds, a bibliography, and an updated detailed CV. In addition, a detailed list of planned travels during the sabbatical stay should be provided. It is also possible to organize small working group meetings under sDiv support as part of your project. Please consult with the sDiv coordinator for any details.

## 2.3 Research Data management support

Funded sabbatical researchers that rely on data for their sDiv project are required to **sign the iDiv [Data Sharing Policy](#) and the [Data Portal Usage Policy](#)**. The sabbatical researcher will be required to register on the iDiv data portal and provide information regarding his/her research project, including any relevant metadata. For further details please refer to the Data Sharing Policy, which describes the regulations with respect to data sharing in the context of iDiv. The iDiv Biodiversity Data Portal Usage Policy describes the rules governing usage of this infrastructure and of the data provided through it.

Additionally, the Biodiversity Informatics Unit of iDiv also provides the following services if necessary:

1. Data storage and archiving on the iDiv data portal.
2. Assistance and advice on:
  - a. Research Data (Textual and Multimedia) and Metadata management
  - b. Data structure and standards for data integration and sharing
  - c. Biodiversity data paper publications
  - d. Publishing data via national, regional or global data portals
  - e. Assigning DOIs to datasets
  - f. Submission of datasets to the global structured biodiversity data repository hosted in iDiv
3. Develop data integration pipelines, provided data is in a standardized format.
4. Access to a High Performing Computing Cluster (via the General IT Support Unit at iDiv).

These activities will be carried out in close consultation with the sabbatical researcher.

## 2.4 Summary of application

### Check list

- Read all relevant documents and information.
- Discuss a possible starting date and period of your contract.
- Clarify the data management agreements.
- Register via the [iDiv application portal](#) and submit the **full proposal by 13 March 2019 (14:00/2:00 PM CET)**.

**If you have any questions regarding the application procedure, please contact the [sDiv coordinator Marten Winter](#).**

## 3 Proposal evaluation

Sabbatical researchers are selected from applications made directly to this programme, or are invited by the iDiv directorate and the sDiv board. The [sDiv advisory board](#) consists of 13 members, consisting 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), the sDiv coordinator and the iDiv Managing Director. The sDiv board is appointed by the iDiv directorate.

Full proposals are usually evaluated within 12 weeks after the submission deadline by the sDiv board and, if necessary, external reviewers. Decisions will be communicated in written form.

## 4 Reporting

Upon completion of their sabbatical stay, the sDiv sabbatical researcher is obliged to provide a final report (details upon discussion). Sabbatical researchers are encouraged to have regular meetings with their iDiv collaborators and to take part in the sDiv lab meetings. The main objective of the sabbatical researcher, however, will be to produce publications (ideally high-impact) or other high impact products.