

# Seeding Labs' Instrumental Access



## March 2019 Call for Applications

Seeding Labs seeks applications from universities and research institutes in low- and middle-income countries for Instrumental Access, a program that provides high-quality scientific equipment for research and education at an affordable price.

### **About Seeding Labs & Instrumental Access**

Seeding Labs is a US-based non-governmental organization dedicated to helping scientists make discoveries that improve life and the planet. Our Instrumental Access program removes a key barrier to research and science teaching by making laboratory equipment available to universities in low- and middle-income countries.

Through Instrumental Access, participants select items to meet their needs from Seeding Labs' inventory of new and used equipment, glassware, and consumables. Selected items are then packed into a 20-foot shipping container and sent to the nearest or most convenient ocean port.

Every shipment is unique, but the fair-market value of the items included in our shipments typically falls between \$60,000 and \$150,000 based on its value on the secondary (used) market. The cost to purchase equivalent items new would usually be up to four times higher.

For more information about shipment size, value, and composition, please see the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) (<https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019-faqs>).

Acceptance into Instrumental Access is the beginning of an ongoing relationship with Seeding Labs. Awardees become part of the Seeding Labs

network of scientists around the world and have exclusive access to additional programs and benefits offered by Seeding Labs.

### Who is Eligible to Apply?

In order to apply, you must be all of the following:

- **An academic department** (or equivalent sub-unit) at a degree-granting institution of higher education OR a **university-affiliated research institute** OR a **public research institute** that is actively engaged in research training as well as research.
- Located in one of the following countries:

*Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Congo, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe*

- Able and willing to meet all program requirements, including the cost-share/fee (see next section).

We prefer to partner at the level of the academic department, but applications from other university or research institute sub-units (e.g., a central lab facility,

a school or college, multiple departments) will be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis. If you wish to be considered, please contact us at [application@seedinglabs.org](mailto:application@seedinglabs.org) with an explanation of your rationale to obtain pre-approval before applying.

Regarding academic discipline, there are no specific requirements, but your application will not be successful unless your needs for equipment are a good fit for what Seeding Labs can supply. Our inventory includes equipment most appropriate for use in **biology and chemistry laboratories**. You can find a list of the types of equipment we typically distribute here:

<https://seedinglabs.org/equipment-wish-list/>

and additional information in the FAQ:

<https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019-faqs/>

If you have any questions about eligibility or would like to discuss your situation in more detail, you are strongly encouraged to contact us at [application@seedinglabs.org](mailto:application@seedinglabs.org).

### **Program Costs**

Participation in Instrumental Access is economical, but it is not free. Awardees must pay a fee in one of two brackets based on the income level of their country:

#### **LOWER-INCOME BRACKET: \$27,800**

*Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Micronesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe*

## HIGHER-INCOME BRACKET: \$35,100

*Albania, Algeria, American Samoa, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ecuador, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Samoa, Serbia, Seychelles, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uruguay*

The equipment itself is a donation, but the program fee helps to cover some of the costs incurred by Seeding Labs. These costs include equipment procurement, quality control and packing, insurance, program administration, and transporting the equipment to the nearest or most convenient ocean port.

In addition to the program fee, awardees should budget for any costs associated with customs clearance, local transportation, and installation/maintenance/use of the equipment; for more information please see the FAQ: <https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019-faqs/>

Please note that the program fee is mandatory and Seeding Labs does not have additional funds available to further subsidize this cost. If selected to participate, a commitment to pay the program fee from the university Vice Chancellor or equivalent is required as part of the application process.

If you intend to raise funds from external sources, or if there are other unusual financial circumstances that apply to your situation, please contact us at [application@seedinglabs.org](mailto:application@seedinglabs.org) to discuss.

### **Process to Apply**

**To submit an application, please visit our application portal:**

<https://www.grantinterface.com/seedinglabs/Common/LogOn.aspx>

You must use a current version of Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Internet Explorer when accessing this portal; use of other browsers may cause you to lose your application data. Please see the FAQ (<https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019-faqs/>) if you need assistance navigating the portal.

Applications are typically submitted by a researcher or administrator on behalf of the department or institution. Applications must be submitted in English. The application form includes questions about:

- Why equipment is needed
- Existing facilities, personnel, and support environment at the applicant department
- Specific equipment needs
- Plans for the coordination, distribution, and sharing of equipment
- Specific proposals to use equipment for education/training and research

Letters of support from the university's Vice Chancellor or equivalent and two additional members of the applicant department are also required.

An independent panel of reviewers will read and score applications. The following factors will be considered as part of the review process:

1. Applicant's need for equipment to accomplish specific research and education objectives
2. Applicant's potential for effective use of requested equipment
3. Anticipated impact of equipment use
4. Applicant's ability to work effectively with Seeding Labs

Top-scoring applicants will be invited to participate in an interview with Seeding Labs staff via Skype or teleconference. These interviews must include the primary applicant, department head or equivalent, and the university Vice-Chancellor or equivalent.

## Important Dates

There will be two deadlines for submission and review of applications under this call:

**14 JUNE 2019**

**30 AUGUST 2019**

Applications that are submitted by the June deadline will be reviewed in July and August. Awardees who are accepted to the program may be scheduled for shipments as early as the last quarter of 2019 or during the first half of 2020. Applications that are deemed eligible but not selected for award at that time will receive automatic re-consideration with the August submissions.

Applications that are submitted by the August deadline will be reviewed in September and October, and awardee shipments will be scheduled for 2020.

## For More Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to the program and application process are available here:

<https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019-faqs/>

All applicants are strongly encouraged to review this document, as it contains important additional information.

Application-related announcements or addendums will be posted to this page:

<https://seedinglabs.org/rfa2019/>

An optional webinar for applicants will be held on **24 April 2019 at 2PM GMT**. To join the webinar, please use the link above. A recording will be available for viewing after that date.

Please direct all inquiries regarding the program and application process to [application@seedinglabs.org](mailto:application@seedinglabs.org).