FAQs: Frequently Asked Questions regarding the IDRC Research Awards

Questions

1. If I am selected for a Research Award, do I need a work permit to start the award?

Yes, you are responsible for obtaining a valid work permit and proper visa prior to starting your award.

2. I am a student enrolled in a master’s program. Am I eligible for a Research Award?

Yes, provided that you meet all the criteria and that you are available to work on a full-time basis from Monday to Friday.

3. What is the deadline to submit an application to this competition?

The deadline changes every year. Visit the Competitions page for the exact date.

4. What is the duration of the award?

The award is for a twelve-month period, from January to December.

5. I am required to complete a two-month internship placement as part of my program of studies. Do I qualify for a Research Award?

Yes, you qualify for a Research Award if you meet all the criteria and are available to work on a full-time basis from Monday to Friday.

6. When will you announce the results?

Results will be announced approximately three months after the deadline.

7. I am required to complete an internship in an organization selected by my university. Can this be supported by IDRC?

IDRC does not provide financial support for internships selected by universities.

8. What programs can I apply for?

You can apply for any program that aligns with your research interests and meets the eligibility criteria.

9. How do you select Research Awardees?

Awardees are selected based on the strength of their research proposal, feasibility, and alignment with program objectives.

10. Can someone at IDRC review my research proposal before I apply?

Yes, you can submit your research proposal for review by IDRC staff, but this is not mandatory and does not guarantee selection.

11. Who can I talk to if I want to know more about a specific program?

Contact the Program Officer for the specific program you are interested in.

12. What should I include in the research proposal?

Include a clear problem statement, methodology, expected outcomes, and a timeline.

13. Can I start later than January?

Yes, you can start at any time within the award period, subject to agreement with your supervisor.

14. Can I leave before December?

Yes, you can leave at any time, but you must provide at least one-month notice to IDRC.

15. What is the duration of the field research component?

The field research component is typically within the first six months of the award period.
No. The Research Award is offered for an uninterrupted period of twelve months.

6) When will you announce the results?

Results for the Research Awards competition are available in late November/early December at: Research Awards - Candidates Recommended for an Award

7) I am required to complete an internship in an organization selected by my university. Can this be supported by IDRC?

No, Research Awardees are only based in IDRC offices.

8) What programs can I apply for?

The list of programs hosting a Research Awardee changes every year. Visit the Competitions page for details on the positions offered by IDRC’s programs.

9) How do you select Research Awardees?

You can find out more about the Research Awards Evaluation Process.

10) Can someone at IDRC review my research proposal before I apply?

The review of research proposals follows set procedures that do not involve feedback at this stage of your application. Candidates can check out the research currently being supported by IDRC’s programs and become familiar with the objectives of each award. Program staff may be contacted if there is a doubt concerning the topic of relevance or if more information is required on the program.

11) Who can I talk to if I want to know more about a specific program?

You may contact the Program Management Officer of a specific program to find out more about the program. The contact information for staff is available on the web pages of specific programs.

12) What should I include in the research proposal?

Proposals must be approximately 10 pages, double-spaced, in 12 point font, not inclusive of bibliography, and include ALL of the following information, presented in separate headings:

- Research topic
- Research objectives
- Methodology
- Ethical considerations
- Tentative schedule of field activities
- Your contribution to the specific program
- How you will benefit from participating in this research award

13) Can I start later than January?
You may start later than January, with IDRC’s approval, but the award will still end in December.

14) Can I leave before December?

You can leave before December but we highly recommend that you commit to stay until December to complete all the terms and conditions of the award.

15) What is the duration of the field research component?

*The duration of the research varies, but in general it is usually 2 to 3 months.*