

Terms of Reference for the Integrated Marine Biosphere Research project (IMBeR) Early Career Research Network

Background and aim

On 3rd December 2016, the IMBeR Executive Committee endorsed the establishment of an IMBeR Early Career Researcher (ECR) network (from herein referred to as 'the network'). The aim of the network is to create a forum for interdisciplinary marine ECRs working on topics related to the IMBeR Grand Challenges. A core focus of the network will be capacity building in developing nations. Specifically, this network will:

- Provide an international networking platform for young marine scholars to develop collaborations;
- Provide training and development in areas not traditionally provided through formal ECR training; and
- Provide leadership opportunities for ECR marine researchers, particularly from developing nations.

Governance

The network will be accountable to the IMBeR Scientific Steering Committee (SSC). The network itself will be overseen by an organising committee consisting of around 10 members. These positions can be held for a maximum of three years from the date of appointment.

Appointment of organising committee

Appointment of the organising committee will be made by the IMBeR SSC, based on nominations from the network. Diversity will be a major consideration in the appointment of the organising committee. Gender, geographic, and disciplinary diversity will be taken into account when selecting members of the network organising committee.

Role organising committee

The organising committee, in collaboration with the IMBeR International Project Office, will be responsible for the operation of the network. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Developing and maintaining a platform that promotes interaction and knowledge exchange through the network (e.g., website, Twitter account, etc.);
- Developing and maintaining a strategy to promote and grow the network; and
- Contributing towards the design and implementation of the ECR training events at IMBeR conferences (e.g., IMBIZOs and Open Science Conferences).

Eligibility

The network is open to Masters and Doctoral students, as well as early career researchers (ECR). For the purpose of the network, an ECR is defined as an individual who is less than eight years post-doctoral, and less than six years since their first academic appointment (either full-time or part-time, with research as the primary function). These durations exclude career leaves (e.g., for family care or health reasons). Membership into the network will be granted by the network Organising Committee, following the completion of an online membership application.

Other

The Organising Committee will provide a summary of activities and achievements from the preceding 12 months for the annual IMBeR Scientific Steering Committee meeting, along with a plan for activities in the next 12 months. The IMBeR Scientific Steering Committee will provide feedback and guidance to the network to support its growth and development.