

IMBeR Fellows Terms of Reference

What is the purpose of the IMBeR Fellows?

IMBeR is intentionally broad and interdisciplinary. This approach is reflected in IMBeR's Science Plan and Implementation Strategy 2016-2025 (SPIS). Members of the IMBeR Scientific Steering Committee (SSC, consisting of c. 16 persons) are chosen so that their collective expertise covers priority areas of the SPIS. However, IMBeR recognises that strategic decision-making can be improved by having additional experts to draw upon. For this reason, a group of approximately 10 IMBeR 'Fellows' has been proposed to act as an additional advisory board.

Fellows are individuals who have served in various roles for IMBeR (e.g. past SSC, WG or RP members, keynote speakers from conferences, etc.), or have specific expertise falling within the SPIS, remain informed about IMBeR and its activities, and are committed to IMBeR's success. The relatively small size of the SSC and the lack of available positions at any given time means that IMBeR necessarily turns away many excellent nominations. IMBeR does not want to lose this expertise, and so Fellows can also include unsuccessful nominees to the SSC.

Why doesn't IMBeR just have a larger (30+ person) SSC?

The role of Fellows is different to members of the SSC, and the time commitment for Fellows is more limited (see [SSC Terms of Reference](#) and below). IMBeR does not provide funds for Fellows to attend in-person annual SSC meetings.

Terms of Reference

Fellows are expected to -

- When called upon by the IMBeR SSC, Executive Committee or International Project Offices, provide the best possible scientific information and advice concerning their field of specialisation as it relates to the IMBeR mission (this could include contributing to the implementation team for a particular Grand Challenge)
- Remain up-to-date on IMBeR and its activities through reading IMBeR annual reports.
- If appropriate, (when relevant liaison expertise is not available within the SSC) serve as a link between IMBeR and partner organisations (e.g. CBD, IPBES, PICES, ICES, GOOS, etc.)

How long do Fellows serve?

Fellows will be appointed to serve until mid 2025 when the current SCOR funding to IMBeR ends. However, as this is a pilot programme, participation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

How are Fellows selected?

Fellows are proposed by current SSC members and approved by the SSC (unlike SSC members, Fellows do not need to be ratified by SCOR and Future Earth). Fellows should be a geographically diverse group with a gender balance and a broad range of pertinent disciplines.

Why be an IMBeR Fellow?

- Being a Fellow acknowledges and promotes your expertise and knowledge, as well as the value and depth of your experience.
- It enhances your credentials and visibility
- Fellows are recognised as thought leaders involved in strategic decision making and forward planning
- Being a Fellow facilitates networking and establishing and maintaining valuable connections with the IMBeR community.
- Fellows can link their research to the international, interdisciplinary science undertaken to address IMBeR priority objectives, and contribute to international development. It will be gratifying to see your advice being applied and to follow the positive impacts it has on IMBeR's progress and future directions.