

Blue Pioneers Fellowship

Guidelines for developing a thesis plan

The research proposal or concept should be a concept note of the research project that must include the following sections (the concept should not exceed 5 A4 pages, Arial font, size 11, single spacing):

- Title of the project for which funds are being requested.
- Full name of the applicant, name and address of the university and postgraduate program.
- Background:
 - Explain why you decided to undertake this project. Indicate whether similar works have been reported in the literature (max. 300 words). What is the knowledge gap and the research question to be addressed?
 - Expected contribution: explain what will be achieved with this work (max. 250 words).
- Methodology
 - Detail the methodological framework, including the study site and justification; if permits are required to carry out the work, whether you already have them or how you will obtain them (max. 200 words).
 - Detail the methods that will be used and provide justification (max. 500 words).
- Activities and timeline
 - Detail the key activities and an execution timeline (in table format).
- Itemized budget
 - Detail how the funds are expected to be used in this project. It must be itemized (e.g., 6 field trips by boat at US\$200 per trip = US\$1,200).
 - Co-funding: if you already have any type of funding for your project or studies, please detail it here. Include evidence of co-funding as an annex (support letter or written communication, approved proposal with itemized funding, certificate, etc.).
- Importance of the study
 - Detail the relevance of the study, the species and/or ecosystem(s) impacted by the study, and who the beneficiaries are (max. 200 words).
- About you and collaborators
 - Describe whether other researchers or collaborators will be involved in this project, indicating their full name, position, institution, and the expertise they bring (max. 300 words).
 - What makes you the most suitable candidate to receive this funding? (max. 100 words).
- References
 - List all the references cited in any of the previous sections using an appropriate and consistent format (e.g., Harvard reference style).