



# IBU Research Grant Programme 25/26 - Terms and Conditions

## 1. Application

- 1.1. Applicants may apply on an individual or collective basis. Individual applications refer to projects submitted by a single research institution, while collective applications involve joint projects with participation from more than one research institution. For both individual and collective applications, all applicants must meet the eligibility criteria, including being affiliated with a recognized research institution or organization and holding an academic/research appointment/affiliation covering the grant period (from submission of the application to delivery of the final report). Additionally, the project leader must hold at least a PhD and will serve as the main contact person for the IBU.
- 1.2. Applications must reach IBU by 31 March 2025 to be considered.
- 1.3. Applicants may not submit the same project proposal twice without having introduced significant changes. Nor may applicants submit more than one project during the same IBU Research Grant Programme cycle.
- 1.4. Applicants must upload the following supporting documents with their online application in the IBU Scope:
  - Researcher CV including profession, position in the institution, research areas and merits
  - Endorsement Letter - from Academic Institution/Research Centre and Member Federation.
  - Budget and Budget Justification
- 1.5. Researchers are requested to submit a budget justification to explain and justify the expenses outlined in the proposal budget. The researcher should accurately reflect the costs of the proposed research project. The budget justification provides the IBU and the RGWG with information about why costs are necessary and how they are calculated.
- 1.6. IBU Research Grants programme intend to cover the following direct costs:
  - Travels- relevant to the research project
  - Investigators allowance (the approximate working hours of the investigator) - this amount is not allowed to be more than 50 % of the total IBU funding
  - Specialised software
  - Supplies and equipment directly related to the project
  - Writing/publication expenses

Funding not supported by the IBU Research Grant Programme includes:

- Salaries
- Taxes
- Tuition fees
- Institutional overhead
- Expenses incurred before the effective date of the grant
- Living expenses
- Miscellaneous expenses not presented in the application
- Fees paid for external consultant or vendor

## 2. Process of project selection

- 2.1. Applications for research grants will first be reviewed by an external expert with regard to the criteria outlined in point 2.5. Following this initial process, the IBU Research Grant Working Group (RGWG) will evaluate and assess the applications.
- 2.2. Current members of the IBU RGWG - follow the [link](#)
- 2.3. The RGWG recommends the list of awardees and research focuses to the IBU, who will confirm the awarding of the grants.
- 2.4. The RGWG members are not allowed to be part of a project within the IBU Research Grant Programme application process, which could be deemed a conflict of interest.
- 2.5. Applications are assessed in terms of:
  - Relevance of research questions and their application to biathlon.
  - Benefits of research results for biathlon athletes, coaches or entourage members.
  - Originality and innovation of the research subject in biathlon research or added value to existing biathlon research.
  - Quality of the project and publication possibilities in an international journal.
  - Research applicability for training and performance.

## 3. Process after project selection

- 3.1. A copy of the Agreement signed by the Institution and the Researcher must be provided by the Researcher to the IBU.

3.2. The Institution and the Researcher shall report to the Development Department contact person:

Christoph Gressenbauer - [christoph.gressenbauer@ibu.at](mailto:christoph.gressenbauer@ibu.at)

3.3. The Institution will ensure that the Researcher undertakes the Research Project within the time-frame described in the Research Project schedule under Article 3 of the Agreement.

3.4. The Institution will ensure that the Researcher may not vary the Research Project submitted to the Programme in the Application in any significant manner without the written consent of the IBU.

#### **4. Grant**

4.1. The Grant is intended to cover all research expenses directly related and essential to the Research Project, following the RGP terms and conditions and as described in the application form and as determined by the IBU.

4.2. If the Grant has not been fully spent once the Research Project is finished, the Institution shall transfer back the remaining funds.

4.3. The Grant is inclusive of all taxes.

4.4. The Institution is solely responsible for receiving the Grant and allocating it as required between the Researcher and, if applicable, the application members and the IBU shall have no responsibility whatsoever as to such allocation of the Grant.

4.5. The amount of financial support granted may differ from the amount requested in the application. The final decision on the granted amount will be determined by the IBU Research Grant Working Group (RGWG) during the evaluation process, based on the assessment of the project's requirements and available funding.

4.6. The granted amount will be disbursed in two installments. The first half will be paid within 30 days of signing the joint agreement. The second half will be paid within 30 days of receiving and approving the final report submitted by the grant recipient.



## **5. Conflict of Interest**

- 5.1. The Institution warrants that, at the date of entering into this Agreement, no conflict of interest exists or is likely to arise in the performance of its obligations under this Agreement or the performance of the Research Project by the Researcher.
- 5.2. If a conflict of interest arises during the term of this Agreement, the Institution will immediately notify the IBU that such a conflict exists.

## **6. Personal Performance**

- 6.1. The Institution shall ensure that the Researcher personally performs the Research Project and, if applicable, performs his/her coordination tasks, and he/she may not delegate or name a replacement unless the Institution has received prior written authorization to do so from the IBU. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if applicable, it is understood and agreed by the IBU that the Researcher may delegate specific tasks and responsibilities from the Research Project within the working group members presented in the application form. For the avoidance of doubt, if applicable, the Researcher shall be the sole point of contact between the group and the IBU.
- 6.2. If, for any reason, the Researcher is no longer in a position to continue to perform the Research Project (e.g. because he/she is no longer a member of the Institution or for any other reason whatsoever), the Institution shall promptly propose a successor acceptable to the IBU. If the Parties are unable to agree upon a successor, this Agreement may be terminated by the IBU.

## **7. Intellectual Property Rights**

- 7.1. For the purposes of the Agreement, Intellectual Property shall mean any creation or product of the human mind including data created as a result of the work carried out for the purposes of the Research Project.
- 7.2. The Institution warrants that, to the best of its reasonable and diligent knowledge, any product of the work related to and/or associated with the Research Project - including, in particular, any and all documents, texts, samples, still or moving images, etc.- which the Institution and/or the Researcher produce, make, devise, invent or develop within the framework of the Research Project do not

violate any third-party rights, in particular intellectual property rights. In case the works contain any third-party material, the Institution shall inform the IBU and:

- confirms that the Institution and/or the Researcher (as applicable) has obtained any and all permissions for the use of such third-party material in the works,
- confirms that it has obtained for, or granted to, the IBU & Affiliates any and all permissions and/or licenses for the use of such third-party material (as contained in the works) for institutional purposes, with such permissions and/or licenses being non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free and perpetual;
- upon request, provide to the IBU a copy of the written permissions and/or licenses referred to in paragraphs (5.1.1.) and (5.1.2.)

7.3. All Intellectual Property arising from the Research Project will be owned by the Party that generates it. The owning party shall take such steps, as may be necessary from time to time to register and maintain any protection for that Intellectual Property, including filing and prosecuting patent applications for any result, and taking any reasonable action in respect of any alleged or actual infringement of that Intellectual Property.

7.4. The Institution and the Researcher shall grant the IBU a license to use any Intellectual Property arising from the Research Project for publication on the IBU website, the IBU Learning Suite and all IBU Social Media Channels and during the courses of the IBU Coach Education Programme, without any limitation in time.

## 8. Reporting and Publication of the Research Project

8.1. **Interim Report** - The Institution shall ensure that the Researcher provides the IBU with an Interim Report according to Article 3 of the Agreement. This Interim Report will consist of a description of the Research Project development, including an explanation of any major changes in the Research Project since submission of the application form to the IBU; an updated working schedule, description of the work already done, ongoing and to be done until the completion of the Research project; the identification of any difficulties the Researcher faces in conducting the Research Project; and a general overview of the expenses incurred thus far. The Interim Report will be provided to the IBU Scope no later than 15 December 2025. Please check the report guidelines for this.

8.2. **Interim Financial Report** - The Institution has to provide a Financial Report of all project expenses and costs related to the Research Project (spent to this date) no later than 15 February 2026 via IBU Scope. Please check the report guidelines for this.

8.3. **Final Research Report** - A Final Research Report has to be provided by the Institution and will be provided to the IBU Scope no later than 1 July 2026. Please check the report guidelines for this. The Final Research Report includes:

- Project Report
  - The Final Project Report includes a cover sheet and a table of contents, and be presented on A4 paper, typed in Arial size 12 font, and using single line spacing.
  - An abstract (600 words maximum) and a list of keywords;
  - An executive summary including a short description of the research topic and objectives and highlighting the main findings, conclusions, and, if appropriate, recommendations (approx. 1,200 - 2,000 words);
  - The research report (a maximum of 5,000 words), including the research subject and objectives; the methodology applied; and a detailed presentation of the findings, conclusions, and, if appropriate, recommendations of the research project. A draft of a journal submission- is also accepted for this part;
  - The annexes, including any additional information of interest for the project. If the Researcher's report includes quotes from interviews, written consent from the participants quoted must be provided in a separate document.
- Project Poster
  - The poster should be one page containing a graphical presentation summarizing the objectives, methodology, results, and practical applications of the research project (like a scientific poster presentation for a congress).
- Final Financial Report
  - A financial accounting report for all funds provided by the IBU. The Institution shall keep for one (1) year from the End date complete and accurate receipts for expenses and provide copies of the same to the IBU on the IBU's written request in such format as the IBU may reasonably require.



- 8.4. The Institution will present the Final Research Report to the IBU in September 2026. IBU keeps the right to set the actual date for the final presentation.
- 8.5. The Institution/the Researcher is required to make best efforts to disseminate the findings of their research to the broader scientific community. This includes submitting a manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and/or presenting the research at a recognized scientific congress.
9. The Institution shall ensure that all subsequent publications or productions by the Institution or by the Researcher, using in whole or in part the results obtained under the auspices of the research grant, will appropriately acknowledge the IBU and that the Researcher shares with the IBU any such publications or productions.

### **Confidentiality**

- 9.1. If the IBU expressly designates in writing some information provided in connection with the Research Project as confidential, the Institution shall not, and shall ensure that the Researcher or, if applicable, the group do not, disclose to third parties such information without the written approval of the IBU.
- 9.2. None of the Parties will be in breach of any obligation to keep any information confidential or not to disclose it to any other party to the extent that it:
  - a. is known to the Party making the disclosure before its receipt in connection with the Project, and not already subject to any obligation of confidentiality to another Party;
  - b. is or becomes publicly known without any breach of this Agreement or any other undertaking to keep it confidential;
  - c. has been obtained by the Party making the disclosure from a third party in circumstances where the Party making the disclosure has no reason to believe that there has been a breach of an obligation of confidentiality;
  - d. has been independently developed by the Party making the disclosure; or
  - e. is disclosed pursuant to the requirement of any law or regulation



(provided, in the case of a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOI**") or the Freedom of Information Act, 2014 ("**FOIA**"), as applicable, or Environmental Information Regulation 2004 ("**EIR**"), none of the exceptions to the FOI or EIR applies to the information disclosed) or the order of any Court of competent jurisdiction, and the Party required to make that disclosure has, where it is permitted to do so, informed the Party whose information it is, within a reasonable time after being required to make the disclosure, of the requirement to make the disclosure and the information required to be disclosed; or

f. is approved for release in writing by an authorized representative of the Party whose information it is.

9.3. Article 7 of this Appendix shall remain applicable for a period of three (3) years after the termination of the Agreement.

## **10. Time Frame and Termination**

10.1. The Agreement is deemed to be in force from the date when all Parties signed it and shall terminate upon completing all obligations of the Parties under this Agreement unless terminated earlier as per Articles 8.2. to 8.6 of this Appendix.

10.2. Notwithstanding the above, the IBU may terminate the Agreement with immediate effect in case of a material breach by the Institution of any of its obligations under the Agreement, which, if remediable, has not been remedied within ten (10) days upon receipt of the IBU's written notice, or if the IBU has reasonable grounds to believe that a material breach of this Agreement has been committed or is occurring.

10.3. If the Institution forms an opinion or could reasonably be expected to have formed an opinion that the Research Project will not be completed in accordance with Article 3 of the Agreement, the Institution must (a) inform the IBU of that opinion and (b) provide a new timetable setting out the expected time-frame. Upon receipt of the above notification, the IBU may (a) agree to the new timetable or (b) terminate the Agreement with immediate effect if the Research Project is not progressing at an acceptable rate.

10.4. If for any reason, the Researcher is no longer in a position to continue performing the





Research Project (e.g. because he/she is no longer an employee of the Institution or for any other reason whatsoever) and the Parties are unable to agree upon a successor, the IBU may terminate the Agreement with immediate effect.

- 10.5. In the event, the Agreement is terminated by the IBU as per Articles 8.2. to 8.4 above, the Institution is not entitled to the complete Grant but shall be granted solely with a portion of the Grant pro-rata for the Research Project performed until the effective end date of the Agreement. If the complete Grant has already been transferred at the time of termination, the Institution shall reimburse the IBU the portion of the Grant it is not entitled to.
- 10.6. The Institution may terminate the Agreement at any time by giving notice to the IBU, provided that the Institution reimburses the IBU all amount of the Grant.
- 10.7. In the event of a conflict of interest arising from the researcher's actions or circumstances, IBU retains the right to terminate this agreement, in case integrity and impartiality cannot be maintained any longer.

## **11. Miscellaneous**

- 11.1. The Institution represents and warrants that it is free to enter into and fully perform its obligations under the Agreement and to grant rights to the IBU as set out herein and that the Researcher is free to perform the Research Project. The Institution will ensure, in any way necessary, the respect of the Agreement by the Researcher and that the Researcher carries out the Research Project in accordance with the appropriate scientific and academic standards. In particular, he/she shall comply with the ethical principles and avoid plagiarism or other similar research misconduct.
- 11.2. Neither this Agreement nor any of the Institution's rights hereunder may be assigned, subcontracted, or transferred without the prior written consent of the IBU.
- 11.3. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws in force in the country of Austria.