



FAQs

Early Career Ocean Professionals Program - 2025

Q: Who can apply?

A: Applications are open to citizens or residents of any [IORA Member State](#) that have graduated within the last 6 years from their highest degree (this can be a Bachelor, Master or PhD degree). Individuals who do not have citizenship or residency in an IORA Member State are not eligible to apply. If you are selected, we may need documentation to confirm your citizenship and residency status and a final endorsement will be requested by the relevant IORA National Focal Point.

Q: How do I apply?

A: Go to <https://forms.gle/CWzp7hhonrmP81Ax9> to fill out an application form

Q: What else should I include in the application?

A: You should include a CV with your application.

Q: Where should the collaborators be from?

A: Collaborators can be from anywhere, but collaborators from IORA Member States are preferred. The successful candidate will be expected to work with the Hub.

Our goal is to generate networks that will help improve knowledge; if you would like us to suggest a potential collaborator please send a brief (one paragraph) description of the project you are planning to Lauren Hardiman (lauren.hardiman@csiro.au) and Mat Vanderkift (mat.vanderkift@csiro.au) before you submit your application.

Q: Where will I live and who with?

A: We will provide accommodation and make every effort to find you a place to live near the office, but please note that securing a house nearby is not always guaranteed.

You will be sharing a house with other successful applicants which includes both men and women. You will have your own room but there is generally a shared kitchen and bathroom. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide separate accommodation.

Q: Is there funding to cover meals and local transport?

A: The IORA Blue Carbon Hub will cover the costs of full board (accommodation and meals) in Perth, Australia (near the Hub offices).

Q: Can the project involve activities such as in situ data collection or field work?

A: Fieldwork can be included but the budget to support this activity is limited. Applicants should plan to spend most of their time at the Hub offices in Perth. If fieldwork is anticipated, it should be outlined in the description of the proposed activity, along with anticipated costs.

Q: Can fieldwork activity (e.g. boats, transport etc) costs be covered?

A: If there are some modest costs associated with fieldwork, the Hub will try to accommodate this, but funds are limited for this type of activity.

Q: When should my project be completed?

A: Projects should aim to be finished in the 6-8-week period whilst working with the Hub in Perth, Australia. The aim of the project should be to have a compact project in association with the Hub to accelerate the results.

Q: What can my project be about?

A: Proposed projects should fall into one of the two categories: blue carbon finance or blue carbon science. Projects can include activities such as original research, reviews or development of policy briefs, but we encourage applicants to suggest their own ideas.

Read more [here](#) about the previous cohort of early career visiting scientists and the previous topics undertaken. If you would like to know if your idea is in scope, please send a brief description of the project you are planning to Lauren Hardiman (lauren.hardiman@csiro.au) and Mat Vanderklift (mat.vanderklift@csiro.au) before you submit your application.

Q: Can I get samples sent to Australia?

It is possible to get samples sent to Australia, but please let us know that you are intending to do so within your application. If successful, we will let you know the methodology and quantities required for the samples.

Please note, we need to get these samples sent as soon as possible as the Australian Customs clears all imports arriving into Australia and there are often long processing times. So please factor in these short processing times when applying.

Q: How do I obtain a visa for Australia?

Appropriate visas can be found using [here](#). The costs incurred in applying for visas will be reimbursed by the hub.

Q: Where can I get additional information about the endorsement process?

You can contact the IORA Secretariat for any additional queries - hq@iora.int with a copy to shamimtaz.sadally@iora.int

If you have any further questions about the ECOP program or the application process, please contact the IORA Blue Carbon Hub iora.bluecarbonhub@csiro.au.