



MRC Centre
for Medical
Mycology



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of Exeter



CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology - *Round 1*

Webinar and Q&A session

Alberto Muñoz, PhD

Centre Manager for the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter



@MRCcmm



exeter.ac.uk/medicalmycology

cmm-latam.com



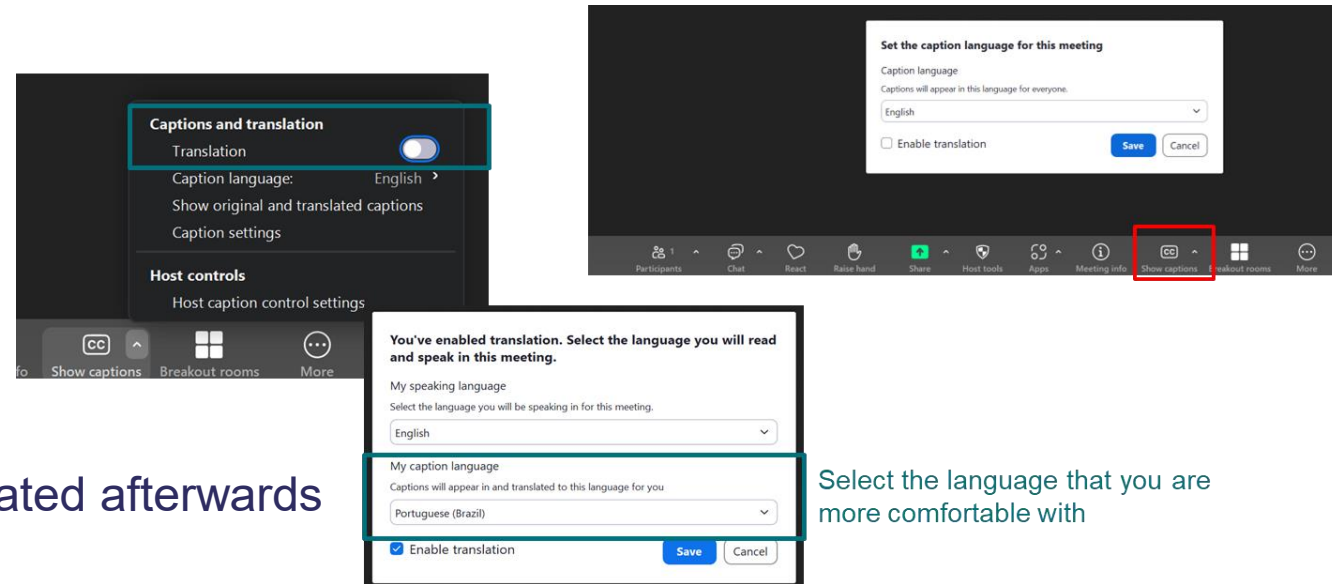
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company/cmm-latam

Housekeeping

- Session will last 1hr max. Time for Q&A after the presentation
- Please keep microphones always muted
- Use Q&A function in Zoom to submit questions
- You can turn on automated captions/translation in Zoom if needed
- Session will be recorded, and FAQs will be updated afterwards
- Slides will be made available on our website



Select the language that you are more comfortable with

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/>

Team behind the scenes

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LATAM

CMM MEDICAL MYCOLOGY UNIT



AFRICA

CMM MEDICAL MYCOLOGY UNIT



Alberto Muñoz
Centre Manager



Jenny Spencer
Centre Administrator



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FAILSAFE Project
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Aims for Today

Understand

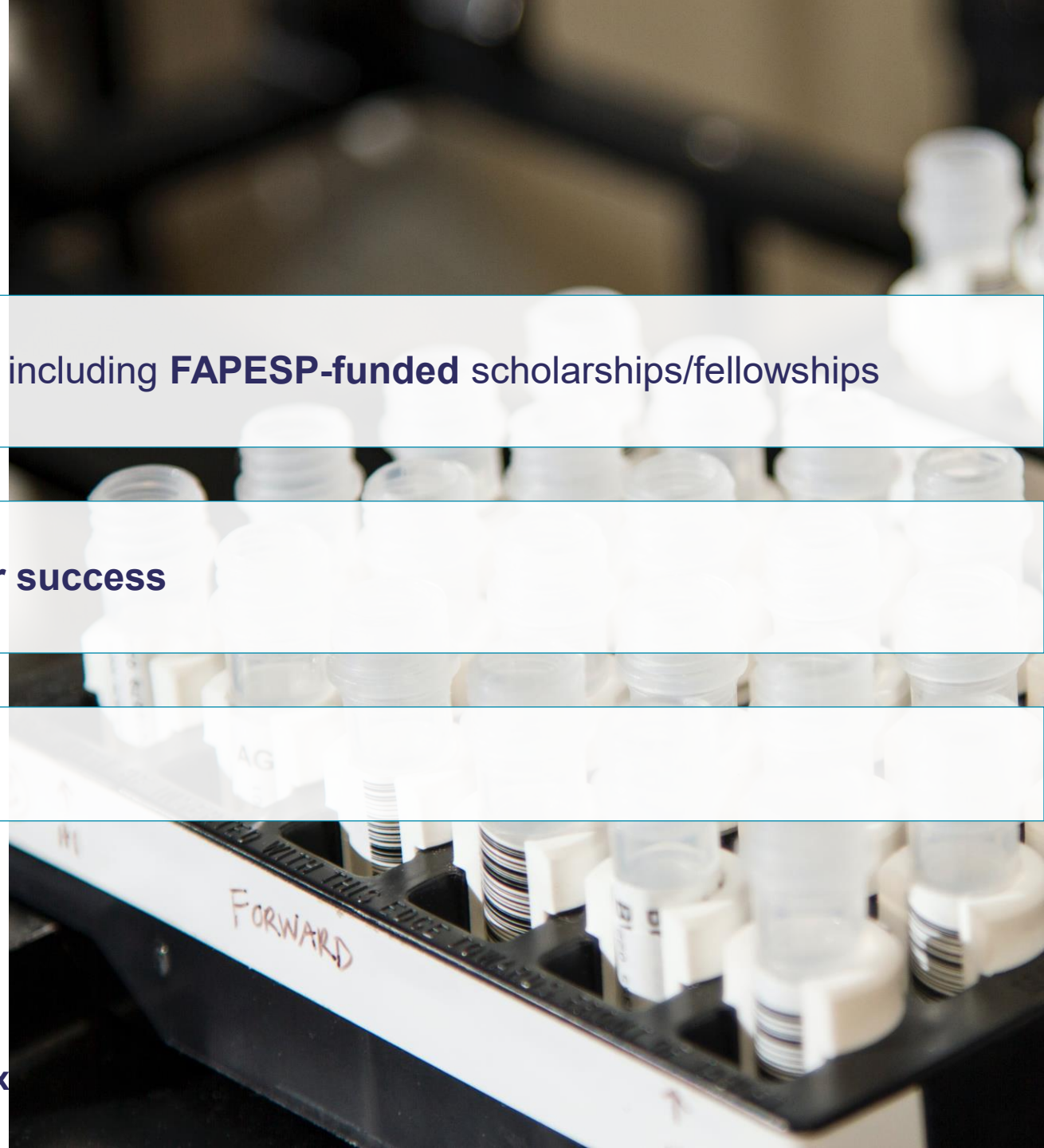
- Understand the call: **aims**, **eligibility** and **priorities**, including **FAPESP-funded** scholarships/fellowships (CMM LATAM)

Explore

- Explore the **application remit**, **process** and **tips for success**

Access

- Access **support** and **resources** for your application



Our Vision

The overarching vision of the MRC CMM is to facilitate innovative and world leading multidisciplinary research that will substantially advance our understanding of fungal pathogenesis and host immunity, enabling the generation and utilisation of knowledge that will improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of fungal diseases in the future.



International Units

Investing in research, training and capacity building



Research



Training and Capacity Building



MRC Centre for Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter



FAILSAFE

Global impact of the CMM-FAILSAFE network with
£2.87 million awarded to researchers worldwide

KEY

Round 1 awardee locations:

● Lead Institution

● Co-App Institution

Round 2 awardee locations:

● Lead Institution

● Co-App Institution

● Member country locations



<https://cmm-failsafe.com/>



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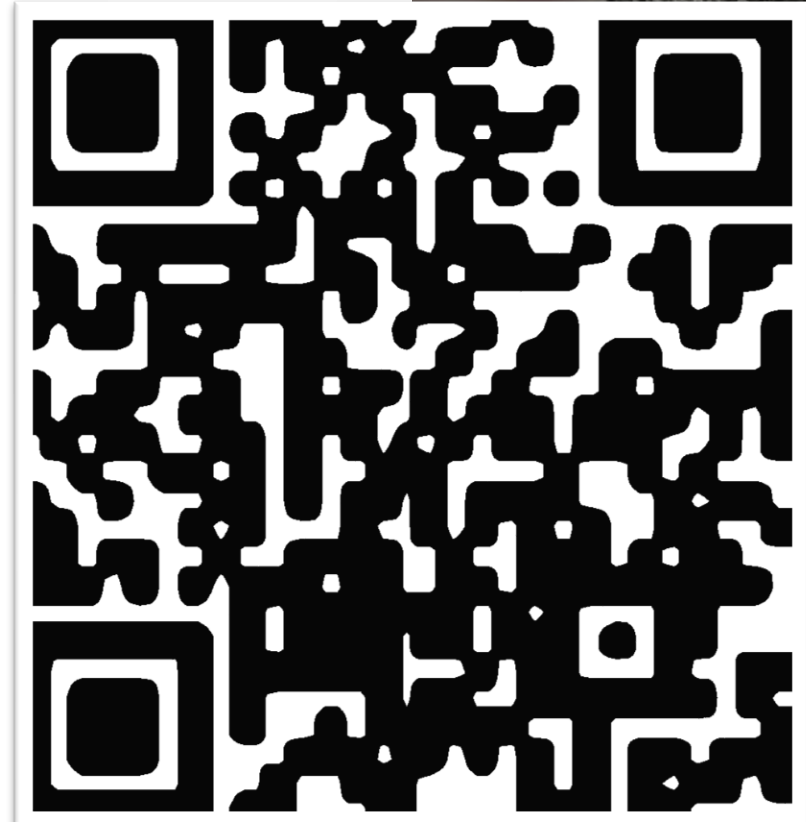
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Advancing Medical Mycology: A Collaborative Approach

Join the CMM-FAILSAFE Medical Mycology Network today!

- Global Collaboration/Member Directory – with 885 members to date
- Knowledge Sharing
- Training opportunities
- Funding



<https://cmm-failsafe.com/become-a-member/>



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CMM International Fund - Round 1 - SUMMARY

The inaugural CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology will:

- Support **excellent, internationally collaborative** research and development;
- With high potential and a robust **pathway to build capacity** via significant onward funding;
- Awards can request **up to £30k over 2 years** (we anticipate funding up to 10 awards in this round);
- Researchers who collaborate with a Brazilian **researcher in Sao Paulo State**, can request further support via **FAPESP-funded** PhD scholarships and Postdoctoral fellowships (up to 5 years if spending 1 year abroad) (see slides 14-17 on FAPESP funding)

Information, guidelines and templates are available at:
<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/>

MRC Centre for Medical Mycology at the University of Exeter

The screenshot shows the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology website. The header is green with the text 'MRC CENTRE FOR MEDICAL MYCOLOGY' and social media icons. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home / Research and Innovation / MRC Centre for Medical Mycology / International units / Funding Calls. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a menu: 'Our vision', 'Research', 'International units' (highlighted), 'AFRICA Unit', 'LATAM Unit', and 'Funding Calls'. The main content area displays the title 'CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology - Round 1' and a brief description: 'A principal aim of the MRC Centre for Medical Mycology and its International Units is to facilitate and enhance global mycology research and development (R&D) aimed at advancing knowledge on fungal pathogens and diseases they cause.' Logos for the AFRICA, UKRI, MRC Centre for Medical Mycology, University of Exeter, and LATAM units are shown at the top of the main content area.

TIMELINE & KEY DATES

14 November 2025	Call opens
3 December	Information/Q&A webinar
9 February 2026	Application deadline
10 Feb to April	Peer review, scoring, ranking and funding allocation
April to May	→ For CMM Int. Fund awardees: Due Diligence/compliance → For FAPESP projects: Postdoc candidate selection PhD student allocation/registration
May to June	Notification of awards, Agreements, Finance set up
From June/July	Projects start (<i>Post-award workshop for awardees, June-July 2026</i>)

ELIGIBILITY



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- Applicants must be members of the **CMM-FAILSAFE Network**:
 - Become a member at <https://cmm-failsafe.com/become-a-member/>
- All projects need to **involve a Collaborator at the Exeter's MRC CMM**. These must be a Principal Investigator or an Early Career Fellow (independently funded Fellow):
 - Find contact details and expertise at <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/people/>
- All projects must have at least **one Applicant/Collaborator/Partner** who is a Principal Investigator at one of the **CMM International Units**:
 - <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/cmm-africa-unit/>
 - <https://cmm-latam.com/about-us/>
- A named individual can be the **Lead Applicant in one application only** (as co-applicant/collaborator in others is fine).
- Co-applicants can be from anywhere in the world, as many as you want (as long as the above conditions are met).

REMIT OF THE CALL (I)



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For projects involving the **CMM AFRICA Unit**:

- Cover at least one of the following research themes:
 - Host/pathogen interactions;
 - Immune response to fungal infection;
 - Emerging pathogens and antifungal resistance;
 - Disease epidemiology and clinical management;
 - Biomarkers, diagnostics, and therapeutics;
 - Education and outreach.

- Focus on one of the following mycoses (pillars):
 - Cryptococcosis;
 - Pneumocystosis;
 - Endemic mycoses caused by thermally-dimorphic fungal pathogens (e.g. emergomycosis, histoplasmosis, sporotrichosis, blastomycosis);
 - Candidiasis;
 - Co-infections with fungal pathogens.

REMIT OF THE CALL (II)

For projects involving the **CMM LATAM Unit**:

- Cover at least one of the following research themes:
 - Microbial Evolution and Pathogenesis;
 - Biomarkers and Diagnostics;
 - Burden, Natural History and Clinical Management;
 - One Health;
 - Education and Outreach.
- Focus on one of the following mycoses (pillars):
 - Histoplasmosis;
 - Sporotrichosis;
 - Cryptococcosis (*C.gattii*).

- Cover at least one of the following subthemes within each of the mycoses:

Histoplasmosis	Sporotrichosis	Cryptococcosis
Defining epidemiology and socio-economic drivers of Histoplasmosis	Characterizing the epidemiology of sporotrichosis	Evaluating clinical samples
Evaluating the immune response of hosts developing clinical forms of histoplasmosis	Investigating the immunity of different clinical forms of sporotrichosis	Creating a registry notification system;
Establishing new strategies to characterize virulence of <i>Histoplasma capsulatum</i>	Establishing new strategies to characterize virulence of the pathogen	Applying CRISPR-Cas genetic tools to validate in biological models
Developing vaccines to combat fungal pathogens of endemic diseases	Developing base for vaccine studies	Evaluating the susceptibility of clinical isolates to antifungal drugs
		Integrating data from gene co-expression networks

ASSESSMENT



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Applications will go to our Peer Review Panel (PRP)
(details and membership of the PRP will be published on our website).

PRP members will review and score applications using a standard template and according to:

- Scientific merit (50%, including quality of the project, research team and environment), and
- Strategic impact for the future sustainability of the collaborative project (50%), primarily around plans for future grant income.

FAPESP-Funded Scholarships/Fellowships



SUMMARY

- ❑ The CMM LATAM Unit secured an important 5-year grant from **FAPESP**, a funding agency based in São Paulo State, to support research development on endemic mycoses in Latin America.
- ❑ 3 FAPESP PhD scholarships AND 3 Postdoctoral fellowships:
 - available for **four years** (or up to **five** years if spend one year abroad)
 - includes salary for the scholar/fellow,
 - includes some consumables and travel budget.
- ❑ You may apply for either one PhD scholarship OR one Postdoctoral fellowship — **not both**
- ❑ You can submit a project application **ONLY** for a FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship, OR to both, the **CMM International Unit Fund + FAPESP-funded project**

(FAPESP) REQUIREMENTS

- Awarded scholar/fellow must work in São Paulo State;
- The project must have a collaborator who is a PI of the CMM LATAM Unit based in São Paulo State
(You MUST contact the CMM LATAM before applying for the FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship due to FAPESP requirements - You can contact by emailing cmm-latam@usp.br);
- You MUST clearly state in the application that you have additional funding to support your project, since this funding cover a FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship for up to five years;
- We will award one PhD scholarship plus one Postdoctoral fellowship to each thematic group. This means one of each for projects working with histoplasmosis, one of each for sporotrichosis and one of each for cryptococcosis (*C. gattii*);
- Due to paperwork specifications, the official supervisor will be a CMM LATAM Unit PI based in São Paulo State and eligible to supervise under the FAPESP grant agreement (e.g. Prof Carlos Taborda (USP)). However, the project lead will be expected to act as co-supervisor and day-to-day lead on the candidate's project.

(FAPESP) ASSESSMENT

All applications received will go to our Peer Review Panel (PRP) for competitive assessment
(PRP will include at least one reviewer in Latin America and knowledgeable of the regional challenges).

PRP members will review and score applications using a standard template. Applications will be scored according to:

- Scientific merit (40%): Project quality, relevance, balance between risk and innovation/impact,
- Contribution to the LATAM ecosystem (30%): Capacity building in Latin America – of people, technology and methods for the region,
- Adequacy of the team (20%): Multidisciplinary, relevant expertise, candidate professional level/development and academic excellence OR detailed project-relevant skill description,
- Adequacy for the timeframe and clear long-term plans and funding (10%).

Visit the CMM LATAM website

Funding

Overview

Important dates

Remit of the Round 1

Information and Requirements

1. CMM International Fund
2. FAPESP-funded scholarship/fellowship

Forms and Documents Needed

How to apply

Webinar

FAQs

Contact Us



The CMM International Fund for Global Advancement of Medical Mycology is **NOW OPEN!**

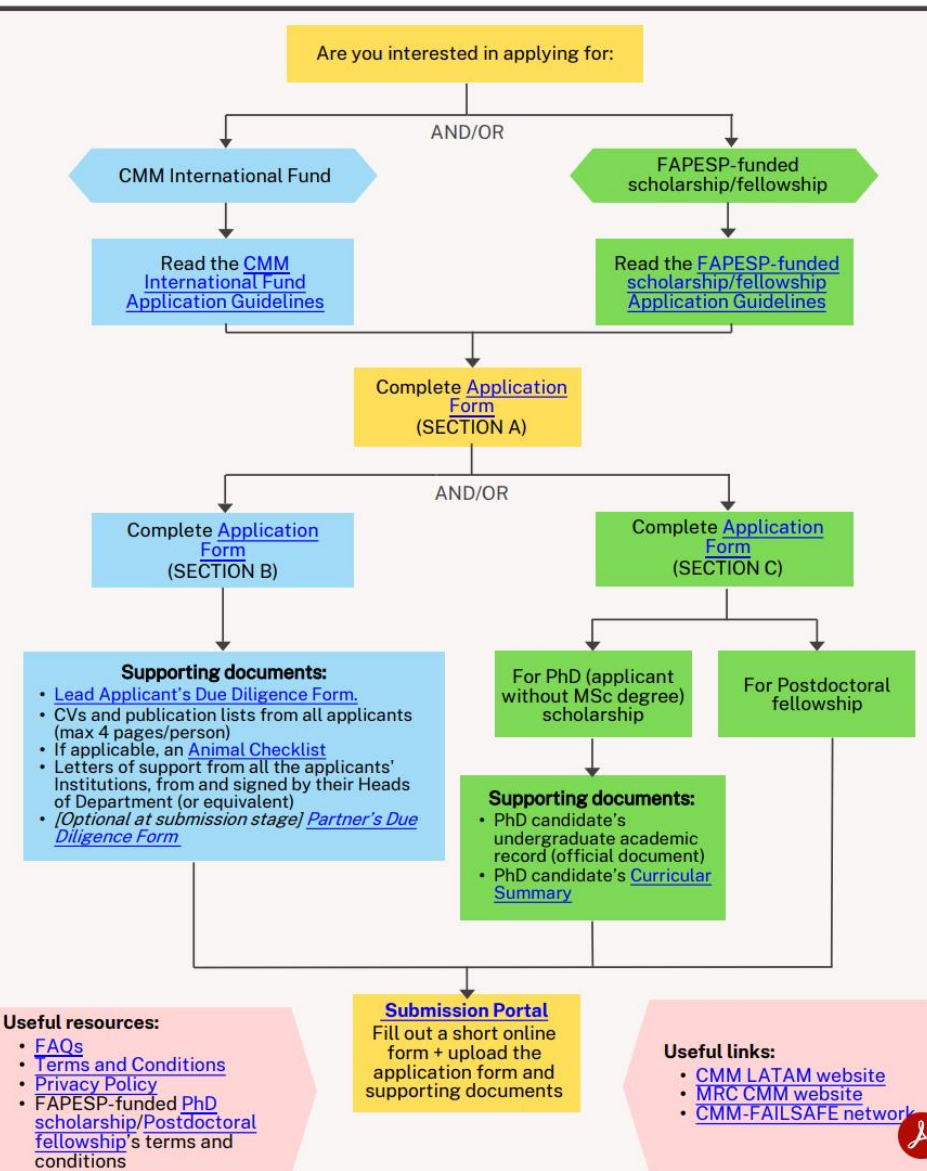
Features	CMM International Fund (CMM LATAM Unit's Fund)	FAPESP-funded PhD scholarship or Postdoctoral fellowship
Maximum amount per project	€10,000	€10,000 (maximum) or €15,000 (maximum) depending on the type of scholarship/fellowship
Project length	2 years	2 years (maximum)
Funding can support research	Yes	Yes
Eligibility & introduction	Applications must be part of the CMM LATAM Unit's research programme. At least 1 CMM LATAM Unit PI must be involved in the project.	Applications must be part of the CMM LATAM Unit's research programme. At least 1 CMM LATAM Unit PI must be involved in the project.
Eligible PI categories	PhD students, Postdoctoral fellows, Other staff of partner institutions	PhD students, Postdoctoral fellows, Other staff of partner institutions
Researcher's location	Must be located in a partner institution	Must be located in a partner institution
Researcher's location	Must be located in a partner institution	Must be located in a partner institution
Researcher's location	Must be located in a partner institution	Must be located in a partner institution
Researcher's location	Must be located in a partner institution	Must be located in a partner institution

Researchers can apply for ONE or BOTH funding streams. Please check information and requirements for each funding stream before applying.

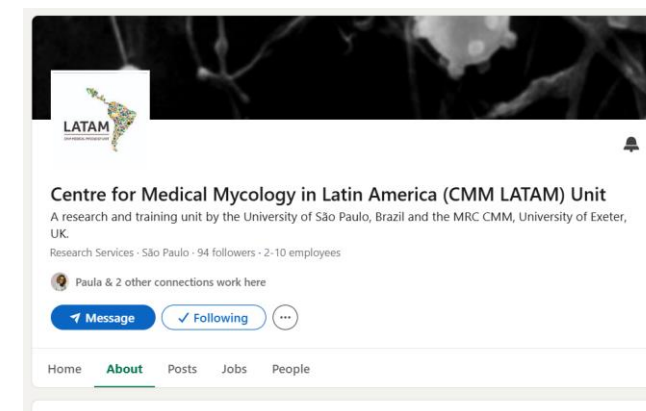
CMM International Fund FAPESP-funded Scholarship/Fellowship



HOW TO APPLY



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APPLICATION FORM



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SECTION A: PROJECT TEAM

A1. Lead applicant details	
Title	
Name	
Post Held	
Gender	
University/Research institute	
Faculty/Department/Division	
Country	
Email address	
Telephone number	
Hours per week on project	<i>For information only - please note that for UK academic institutions Directly Allocated (DA) costs will not be funded. Principal Investigator time on the project will not be funded.</i>
Expertise and value to project (max 150 words)	
<p>ALL applicants will need join the CMM-FAILSAFE Network in order to apply for project funding. Please confirm if you are a member of the CMM-FAILSAFE network.</p> <p>If you have not yet submitted a membership application, please apply here: https://cmm-failsafe.com/become-a-member/</p> <p>Membership applications can be processed in parallel with this funding application.</p> <p>Are all applicants and collaborators existing members? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Full registered (legal) address of Lead Institution – please ensure that your contracts/legal team provide the correct information as details from here will be used later on award letters/contracts for all successful applications</p>	

Financial administration for Lead Institution – if the financial administration of awarded funds is managed through an organisation other than that detailed in the question above, please provide details and explanation
Is your institution based in a country that may be subject to delays e.g. financial delays if government typically get involved? (Yes/No) If “Yes”, please specify

A2. Co-Applicants and Collaborators

Co-Applicant = a member of the research team applying alongside the Lead Applicant for the Grant (can be from the same institution as the Lead Applicant or from a different institution).

CMM International Unit PI = a Principal Investigator of the CMM International Units who is based in the region (to date, [CMM AFRICA](#) and [CMM LATAM](#)). They can act as Lead/Co-Applicant/Collaborator in this application. This is a mandatory requirement.

SECTION B: CMM INTERNATIONAL FUND PROJECT PROPOSAL

B1. Project title (non-confidential, as successful projects' titles and lay summaries will be published on the CMM International Units' websites)

B2. Lay summary (non-confidential, as successful projects' titles and lay summaries will be published on the CMM Units' websites)

(max 250 words)

B3. Project duration (not exceeding 24 months)

B4. Proposed start/end dates

Start date:

End date:

B5. Total sum requested (GBP) (note, budget detail to be listed in Question B12 below)

£

B6. Project aims and technical summary

(max 500 words)

B7. Description of the Proposed Project – include the scientific challenge being addressed, how the project addresses the priorities identified for CMM International Units (see guidelines for more details).

(max 1,000 words excluding figures and references – a maximum of 2 pages for figures and 2 pages for references can be appended to the proposal in Annex I)

SECTION C: FAPESP-FUNDED PHD SCHOLARSHIP OR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (CMM LATAM Unit)

FOR THE PHD SCHOLARSHIP

Please note, when applying for a FAPESP PhD (applicant without MSc degree) scholarship, **you should indicate a candidate in the application form below** who has not failed any classes during undergraduate studies. For more information, check out again the “FAPESP scholarship/fellowship requirements” on the [Application Guidelines](#). Skip this section if applying for a Postdoctoral fellowship.

C1. PhD Project title

C2. Project Summary

(max 300 words)

C3. Introduction, background and justification of the project (with bibliography)

(max 800 words)

C4. Main objectives

(max 200 words)

C5. Methodology (including data analysis methods)

(max 800 words)

C6. Timetable with the activities to be developed along 5 years (including one abroad), with few details of items to be accomplished every 6 months.

(max 800 words)

C7. Suggested candidate

Name

Is the candidate available to move to São Paulo State to develop their PhD project in collaboration with the Brazilian team?

Yes/No

Does the candidate have a master's degree?

Yes/No

Current country of residence

Email address

Telephone number

Expertise and value to project

(max 150 words)

FOR THE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

APPLICATION PROCESS (I)

1. For All applicants:

- **A fully completed and signed Application form.** One form per application is required to apply for:
 - CMM International Fund (**SECTIONS A and B**), *and/or*
 - For FAPESP-funded scholarships/fellowships (**SECTIONS A and C**).
- **Declare that all applicants are members of the CMM-FAILSAFE Medical Mycology Network** (membership is free – can sign up at the same time you submit your application).

2. For applicants to the CMM International Fund:

- **A fully completed and signed Lead Applicant's Due Diligence Form.**
- **[Optional at submission stage] A fully completed and signed Partner's Due Diligence Form** (this is a mandatory requirement for receiving the funding).
- **CVs and publication lists from all Applicants** (max 4 pages).
- **If applicable, an Animal Checklist.**
- **Letters of support from All applicants Institutions, from and signed by their Heads of Department (or equivalent).** **Excludes existing CMM members and non-funded collaborators.**

3. For applicants to the FAPESP-funded PhD scholarship (CMM LATAM Unit specific):

- **PhD scholarship Candidate's undergraduate academic record.**
- **PhD scholarship Candidate's Curricular Summary.**

APPLICATION PROCESS (II)



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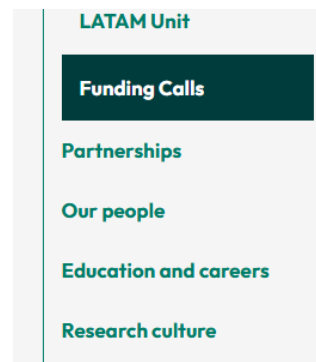


Prior to submitting your application, please ensure:

- You have read and agreed with our non-negotiable **Terms and Conditions** (published on the website);
- You have checked all the **activities not supported** by this funding in your budget (i.e. Indirect costs by UK Institutions, large equipment purchases (>£5,000), PI/academic salaries).

Applications should be submitted **online through our submission portal** by the closing date on **9th February 2026 at 23:59 (UK time)**

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/>



Round 1 Submission Portal

Submit your CMM international funding application here:

Project title of your proposal *

(non-confidential, as successful projects' titles and lay summaries will be published on the website)

You will be redirected to a new webpage under the FAILSAFE website to submit your project proposal.

APPLICATION PITFALLS

- ✗ Not Exeter's MRC CMM collaborator
- ✗ Not CMM International Unit PI as applicant/collaborator
- ✗ Not within the remit of this call (Unit's themes and mycoses for Round 1)
- ✗ Incomplete or over the word count
- ✗ Not enough strategic plans for the future sustainability/funding applications
- ✗ Won't be successful/achievable in the timescales
- ✗ Incorrect or inaccurate budgets

KEY TO SUCCESS

- * ALL forms are fully completed and submitted by the deadline
- * Meets eligibility criteria and all the applicants/collaborators requirements
- * Clearly defined pathway to follow-on funding (*CMM International Fund!*)
- * Sufficient scientific detail
- * Demonstrates impact (in the region)
- * Feasible
- * Cost-effective
- * Realistic
- * Cross-unit collaborations



Help and Resources

- Guidance, FAQs and Application documents are available on the MRC CMM website:

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/>

- For further support and individual project questions email us:

mrccmm@exeter.ac.uk



cmm-latam@usp.br



mmafricaunit-group@uct.ac.za



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[exeter.ac.uk/medicalmycology](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/medicalmycology)

THANK YOU - ANY QUESTIONS?

- Guidance, FAQs and Application documents are available on the MRC CMM website:

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/research/medicalmycology/internationalunits/funding/>

- For further support and individual project questions email us:

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