



Global Education Monitoring Report Fellowship

Description of the Fellowship – Call for Proposals

Global Education Monitoring Report

The [Global Education Monitoring \(GEM\) Report](#), formerly known as the Education for All Global Monitoring Report (GMR), is an editorially independent, authoritative, and evidence-based annual report that monitors progress in education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which have been adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with special focus on SDG 4 on education. Its mandate was established in the Incheon Declaration of the World Education Forum in May 2015. The [Education 2030 Framework for Action](#) defined this mandate for the GEM Report as the mechanism “*for monitoring and reporting on SDG 4 and on education in the other SDGs*” and for reporting “*on the implementation of national and international strategies to help hold all relevant partners to account for their commitments*”.

The Report is funded by a group of governments, multilateral agencies and foundations. It is hosted and published by UNESCO and is widely recognised as an indispensable advocacy and technical tool serving the international community. It draws on the latest data and on evidence from a wide array of sources leading to recommendations on how to accelerate progress towards achieving the international education targets. Each report has two parts: one focusing on monitoring the international education targets and one focusing on a theme, which is selected jointly with its Advisory Board. The themes of the last three reports were education and the other development goals (2016), accountability (2017/8), migration and displacement (2019). The current 2020 report is on inclusion and education, the 2021 report will be on the role of non-state actors in education, and the 2022 report will be on technology, innovation and the future of education. In addition to the main report, the team also produces the summary, the youth version, the gender review, four to six policy papers per year, and the World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE). It also commissions about 40 background papers per report cycle.

Open Society Foundations

The [Open Society Foundations](#) work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable and open to the participation of all people. The Open Society Foundations are committed to empowering young people by supporting efforts to increase access to quality education. From early childhood to higher education, the Open Society Foundations work to ensure young people from different backgrounds have equal access to education and to promote critical thinking, respect for diverse opinions, and free and open intellectual inquiry.

Description of the Fellowship

Fellows will be selected among applicants from research institutions, government agencies or professional organisations. Candidates with a doctoral degree, who are familiar with quantitative research methods and experience in national-level policy-making and who have published work in scientific journals are encouraged to apply. Selected fellows will be invited to work with the GEM Report team for a period between six months and one year, of which one month will be spent on site at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The fellowship is non-renewable.

Research proposals will be selected according to their originality, potential to influence the international education agenda, and scientific rigour. Proposals should aim to produce one background paper for the GEM Report team, which would be either linked to the forthcoming report and its theme or to other projects that support the Report's objectives. The outputs may also include other deliverables, ranging from databases and programmes to materials to communicate the findings and help reach out to policy makers at the national, regional or global level. Preference will be given to proposals with a clear comparative element.

The GEM Report Fellowship programme will support proposals for studies in the area of international and comparative education with a special focus on:

- **utilizing the GEM Report's data resources**, notably those household and school surveys linked to the World Inequality in Education database, to strengthen analyses of global, regional and national education trends on issues of access, equity, inclusion and quality;
- **strengthening the content of the GEM Report** with respect to its coverage of important issues at the regional and national level, through evidence-based analyses of educational policy and practice;
- **advancing the SDG 4 monitoring agenda**, especially on issues related to the global and thematic indicator framework that have been highlighted in previous reports;
- **supporting the themes of forthcoming GEM reports**, i.e. 2021 report on the role of non-state actors in education, and the 2022 report on technology, innovation and the future of education.

While the 2020 report on inclusion and education will be nearing completion at the end of 2019, applicants are welcome to submit proposals related to inclusion should they be interested. If so, please consult the 2020 GEM Report [concept note](#).

Main responsibilities

- Complete a relevant background paper for the upcoming GEM Report or other Report projects. The background paper should be clear in the proposal and include previously unpublished analysis. Data can be drawn from multiple sources including national or cross-national learning or literacy assessments and household, school or labour force surveys. The background paper should include policy recommendations that will assist countries in implementing their education policies.
- While on site, participate in GEM Report team activities to ensure a close fit between the research and the objectives of the team and to further explore and develop the research in line with the needs of the international education agenda and policy makers at the national, regional and global level.

Experience and qualifications

Academic background:

- An advanced university degree in education, sociology, economics, political science, psychology, demography, statistics, psychometrics or other related fields.

Professional background:

- Proven experience in policy analysis in an academic/research or a national/international agency setting.
- Proven experience in organising projects in research and/or policy contexts.

- Contacts within the education policy community would be an advantage
- Experience with education systems in low, middle or high income countries.

Tools:

- Sound knowledge of and proven experience in the application of statistical techniques involving large-scale survey data. Experience using statistical analysis software such as Mplus, R, STATA, SPSS or SAS would be an asset.

Languages:

- Fluency in one of the two UNESCO official languages (English and French) and the capacity to draft to a high standard in English.

Proposal

The GEM Report is inviting research proposals for the 2019 GEM Report Fellowship.

The research proposal should address an important policy topic in relation to the upcoming 2020, 2021 or 2022 GEM Report from a novel perspective. It should place the work within the current policy debate on SDG 4, the international education goal, and briefly describe the potential contribution this research will make to the field of education and to policy making.

Relevance to GEM Report

A successful proposal will provide a strong rationale for how the work would contribute to the GEM Report work:

- Explain the policy areas of interest, spell out the policy questions to be addressed, and indicate how the research will promote access, equity, inclusion and quality in education systems.
- Show why GEM Report resources and research areas (thematic or geographic) are particularly well suited to address those questions.
- Show how the research relates to monitoring issues highlighted in past GEM reports or thematic issues of future GEM reports.

Data and methods

The proposal should describe:

- the data that will be used to develop the research project, including the main variables
- the methods and statistical procedures that will be used to develop the research project

Resources

The proposal should provide:

- a timeline, which is achievable
- the length, reasons and expected benefits of carrying out part of the research project in Paris.

Selection procedure

Applications must be submitted in English. They will be reviewed and assessed by the GEM Report team, based on the criteria outlined above and considerations related to quality, potential, and originality as well as the qualifications and track record of the applicant. Shortlisted applicants may be invited to discuss small adjustments to their proposal in a review meeting. The GEM Report team will not be able to provide feedback on proposals that were not selected.

Timeline

- Deadline for proposals: **29 September 2019** (midnight, Paris time)
- Announcement of decision with successful applicants: 31 October 2019
- Review meeting: 14 November 2019 (tbc)
- Expected start to the fellowship: **January 2020**

Application

Applicants will need to provide the following information:

- CV in UNESCO format
- One page with brief project title, abstract (150 words), duration, budget
- Project proposal (maximum 5 pages / 2500 words) with the following information:
 - research question / aim of the project
 - relevance to the GEM Report
 - proposed data and methodology
 - timeline and resources

Financial support

The GEM Report includes financial support for the research work undertaken to support the GEM Report, a return flight and a one-month per diem allowance in Paris”

To apply email gemreport@unesco.org (*please note that only submissions with a complete project proposal will be considered*).