

Vera Thiess Fellowship For Women Guidelines

About

The Vera Thiess Fellowship for Women gives women from developing countries the opportunity to gain valuable experience and network with the International RiverFoundation (IRF) and its partners. The goal of the Vera Thiess Fellowship is to advance women's participation in water and river management to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Awarded in the name of the late Vera Thiess, a long-time supporter of the IRF, the Fellowship recognises Vera's and the Thiess family's enterprising nature and dedication to philanthropic giving. This Fellowship honours Vera's legacy by supporting women's involvement in river basin management. We also acknowledge the inspirational role of the Thiess family, whose story began with five brothers who started a small earthmoving business that then grew into a globally respected establishment that overcame hardship, broke boundaries and forged new ground. Read more about the late Vera Thiess [here](#).

Vera Thiess Fellows will have the opportunity to propose a project of their choosing and undertake activities with the IRF, its alumni and partners worldwide. This is a unique opportunity to gain invaluable experience with IRF and its partners through developing and implementing solutions to real-world issues.

The award

A 3 – 6 month Fellowship with the International RiverFoundation (valued at between AU\$20 - 40,000), consisting of:

- Project work and funding for travel to engage with the International RiverFoundation's global partners
- Participate in the 21st International Riversymposium Sydney, Australia, where the Fellowship will be formally awarded (14 – 18 October, 2018)
- Present findings at the 22nd International Riversymposium Brisbane, Australia (October 2019).

2018 Fellowship Topics

The goal of the Vera Thiess Fellowship is to advance women's participation in river management to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2018 topics that will be addressed through the fellowship are:

- Resilient rivers, basin and communities
- Measuring the impact of education, recognition and/or collaboration in river management
 - o IRF's Scholarships
 - o IRF's Riverprizes
 - o IRF's Twinning partnerships

Commitments and Expectations

A key requirement for this fellowship is a commitment to undertake your proposed project, within the required timeframe, addressing one of the above topics.

Before proceeding with your application, please ensure that you can:

- Commit to undertaking one 3 – 6 month project, which may consist of online and field research, interviews, visiting IRF's global partners and any other activities essential to achieving the

project goals. Your time commitment may be divided into intense short-term segments or be conducted over a longer period, but must be completed by October 2019. If successful, a detailed work plan will be required for approval.

- Ensure you are able to support yourself financially throughout the duration of the fellowship.
- Ensure your project has a legacy – whether it be an online presence (blogs, videos etc), final report for IRF partners, on-ground impact etc.
- Be available for a video interview in August 2018.
- Be available to attend and participate at the 21st International Riversymposium, Sydney Australia from 14-18 October 2018 and attend and present at the 22nd International Riversymposium, if successful (October 2019, Brisbane Australia).

Benefits

A Vera Thiess Fellowship offers you the opportunity to learn more about IRF's partners and Riverprize alumni to successfully champion integrated river basin management for the restoration, protection, resilience and/or sustainable management of the world's rivers.

Becoming a Vera Thiess Fellow will provide you with:

- Personal and professional development opportunities, including access to the International RiverFoundation networks, to build your network with world-leading river basin management practitioners.
- The remarkable opportunity to explore a topic you are passionate about and experience putting ideas into action in the workplace and on-ground.
- Enhanced professional reputation as you share the knowledge gained with the global river community via IRF's social media platforms and Riversymposium.
- The ability to encourage women's involvement in river basin management and make a difference towards achieving SDG6.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a Vera Thiess Fellowship you must:

- Be female and over the age of 21, residing in and citizen of a developing country.
- Be a recent graduate or in the first five years of your career.
- Have experience in, integrated river basin management and an understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Be available to attend the 21st Riversymposium in Sydney (14 – 18 October, 2018).
- Be able to travel internationally throughout 2019, and attend the 22nd Riversymposium in October, 2019 (Brisbane, Australia).
- Be willing to share your fellowship findings with the global river community.
- Apply online by 11:59pm GMT, Sunday 29 July 2018.

Application process

Stage 1 – Online application

Applicants are required to submit the following by Sunday 29 July 2018:

- The online application form.
- A one-page cover letter detailing your proposed project (including aim, overview, draft itinerary and budget) and how it meets one or more of this year's topics.
- An up-to-date resume with two written referee reports - one personal referee; one professional referee, up to 300 words each

- A photograph (to be used for marketing purposes only, if selected as the winner).

Finalists will be notified Tuesday, 14 August and invited to a video interview.

Stage 2 – Interviews

Video interviews will be held on 21 – 23 August, 2018 (during Brisbane business hours).

Stage 3 – Fellowship award

The winner will be notified on Tuesday, 28 August, with the official presentation of the Fellowship on 16 October, during the 21st International Riversymposium in Sydney.

The successful applicant will be required to attend the 21st International Riversymposium in Sydney on 14 – 18 October, 2018 and finalise project itinerary and budget for approval by IRF by the end of October 2018, along with a communication plan. Attending Riversymposium will also be an opportunity to meet descendants of Vera Thies and network with IRF partners.

Application Assessment

Every application will be assessed on the merit of the proposed project and the ability of the applicant to complete the project to a high standard. In this assessment the IRF considers that there are two distinct components of equal value.

Applicant:

1. Demonstrated commitment to champion integrated river basin management for the restoration, protection and sustainable management of the world's rivers.
2. Academic achievement in a river-related field/area of study, however, the Fellowship is NOT designed to enable recipients to complete tertiary qualifications.
3. Demonstrates a willingness to share the knowledge gained with the global river community.
4. Ability to attend Riversymposium in both 2018 and 2019.
5. Ability and commitment to make a difference after the Fellowship (ongoing involvement with IRF and network, leadership qualities, a strategic approach, networks).

Proposed project:

1. Demonstrates an increase in women's participation in river management and achieving SDG6.
2. Allows the candidate the ability to learn from IRFs, Ambassadors and Alumni.
3. Addresses a relevant, topical and or/urgent water-related need.
4. Anticipates outcomes that will inspire new ideas, innovation, and excellence.
5. Is achievable within the proposed timeframe and budget.

Apply for the Vera Thies Fellowship for Women

1. How would you embrace innovation to increase women's participation in river management to achieve SDG6?
2. How would you measure the impact of IRF's education, recognition and/or collaboration programs?
3. What do you consider to be your three biggest achievements in river management, SDGs and/or freshwater ecosystems?
4. How do you propose to share the knowledge you gain during your Fellowship?