



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: ABI GROUP LEADERS

The African Bioinformatics Institute (ABI) invites applications from highly motivated, accomplished, senior scientists to join as Group Leaders. As an ABI Group Leader, and a senior scientist at your home institution on the African continent, you will be contributing actively to the advancement of bioinformatics research, training, and services across Africa. This role offers the opportunity to build meaningful collaborations within the African scientific community while maintaining activities that reflect the international stature of the ABI.

The selection process will assess applicants' scientific achievements, leadership potential, and alignment with the ABI's mission and values. Applicants must demonstrate institutional support for their bioinformatics activities. Once appointed, the Group Leader's institution will be designated an ABI site and will enter into an agreement with the ABI. Institutions may host more than one ABI Group Leader.

Benefits of becoming a Group Leader at the ABI

Joining the ABI as a Group Leader offers a range of valuable opportunities that can enhance your professional development and amplify your impact in bioinformatics across Africa:

- Involvement in Grant Proposals: ABI Group Leaders can participate in collaborative grant applications aimed at securing funding for research projects, training initiatives, and service platforms. The ABI encourages and supports its Group Leaders in pursuing research funding to drive scientific progress and expand the reach of bioinformatics in Africa, providing strategic support for multi-institutional grant proposals.
- Access to ABI-Wide Project Funding: Group Leaders may be eligible for funding dedicated to ABI-wide initiatives that tackle critical challenges in bioinformatics and genomics across the continent. These projects provide a platform for leading high-impact research that serves the broader scientific community.
- Collaboration with African Researchers: The ABI fosters a dynamic, collaborative environment where Group Leaders can engage with fellow African scientists across a range of disciplines. This promotes meaningful knowledge exchange, strengthens scientific networks across the continent, and provides access to a network of peers and strategic collaborators.
- Role in Training and Mentorship: As a Group Leader, you will play a central role in mentoring students and postdoctoral fellows. Through the ABI, you can help shape the future of bioinformatics by providing training, supervision, and hands-on research opportunities to the next generation of African scientists.

- Governance and Leadership Opportunities: Group Leaders are eligible to participate in the ABI's governance and leadership structures, including the potential for representation on the ABI Governing Board, offering a meaningful role in shaping the institute's strategic direction.

Criteria for Evaluating Applications

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria to ensure a comprehensive and fair selection process:

- Institutional Appointment: Applicants must already hold an appointment at an academic, public health, governmental, or non-profit research institution based in Africa. The ABI does not offer remuneration for this role, and the applicant's home institution must commit to providing the necessary facilities and resources to support their contributions to the ABI.
- Research Group Leadership: Applicants must lead an established, independently functioning research group with salaried staff and/or students. The ABI does not offer salary or bursary support to Group Leaders or their team members.
- Publication Record: Original research publications in the field of bioinformatics where the applicant is listed as first or senior author will be prioritised.
- Development of Research Resources: We value the creation of bioinformatics tools, platforms, or databases that are widely adopted and impactful within the scientific community. Contributions that enhance data sharing, analysis, or reproducibility will be considered favourably..
- Mentorship and Capacity Building: Strong candidates will have a demonstrated track record of mentoring students and postdoctoral researchers, contributing to the development of bioinformatics capacity in Africa through the creation of a supportive, inclusive research environment.
- Grant Acquisition: Applicants should have a proven ability to secure competitive research funding as a principal investigator or co-PI. This reflects their capacity for independent scientific leadership
- Scientific Engagement: Participation in the broader scientific community is important, including collaboration across institutions, disciplines, and borders, as well as involvement in conferences and workshops.

Application Process

Please submit your application and upload the documents as PDF attachments through the application [form](#). **The application consists of three required components:**

1. Completed Application Form

Applicants must complete the online form to apply for a Group Leader position within the ABI. We recommend reviewing the form in advance and preparing all necessary documentation, as completing the application may require some time.

2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Applicants must upload a CV detailing academic and professional achievements. The CV should include all publications, grants, research experience, teaching responsibilities, and administrative roles.

3. Institutional Letter of Support

A formal letter of support from your home institution is required to confirm their endorsement of your application and their willingness to support your leadership role at the ABI. This letter must be printed on official institutional letterhead, signed, and dated by an authorised representative, ideally the Vice Chancellor, Director General, or equivalent. At minimum, it must be signed by a Faculty Dean, Director, or equivalent.

The letter should include the following:

- A clear statement confirming the institution's awareness of and support for your application to become an ABI Group Leader.
- An explanation of how ABI membership will benefit the institution and align with its mission and activities.
- A description of institutional resources and facilities that will be made available to support your role (e.g., office/laboratory space, computing infrastructure, classroom access, etc.).
- Details of any financial or in-kind contributions the institution will provide to enable your participation in ABI.
- The name, title, and contact information of the authorised institutional representative who is endorsing the application and has the authority to commit the stated resources.

If there are multiple Group Leaders applying from the same institution they should submit the same letter of support, which should name all the applicants.

Additional support at the government level is welcomed, and a letter of support can be uploaded.

Appointment and Evaluation

Appointments are for a term of three (3) years, renewable based on performance and continued alignment with the ABI's mission. Note, this is not a competitive process, Group Leaders are NOT competing with each other for positions, they will be appointed based on excellence.

Applications will be assessed by a selection committee using a transparent evaluation rubric.

Evaluation Process: Applications will be assessed by a selection committee using a transparent evaluation rubric. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview. Applicants will be notified of the outcome and any further steps in due course. For successful applicants, an agreement will be put in place between the ABI and their Institution.

Equity and Inclusion

The ABI strongly encourages applications from senior bioinformatics scientists working in underrepresented regions. Diversity of geography, gender, institutional type, and scientific focus will be considered in the final selection.

For any enquiries or further information, please contact info@bioinformaticsinstitute.africa.