



International Federation of  
Biosafety Associations

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## IFBA Professional Certification Program Short-term Youth Fellowship

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May 3, 2023

## Background

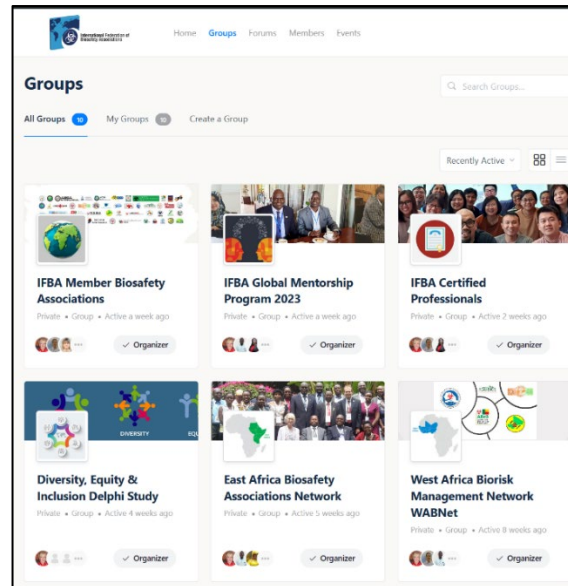
Ensuring that individuals who have access to dangerous biological agents are certified with demonstrated competencies in managing biological risks is an essential component in countering the biological threats and the misuse of biological science. As of April 30, 2023, the International Federation of Biosafety Association's (IFBA) [Certification Program](#) has issued over 1,500 certifications across 91 countries in 7 different technical disciplines. Looking ahead, the IFBA is launching a new *Phase 5 Expansion in the Post-Covid Era* for the certification program based on a situational analysis and needs assessment from the international stakeholder community. In this post-Covid era, the demand for the certification program amongst individuals, organizations, institutions and governments is now growing at a faster pace as countries enhance their preparations against future pandemic threats. The current demand for individuals with demonstrated competencies in each of the technical disciplines, and especially in biological risk assessment, far exceeds the current cadre of certified professionals. As professional certification gains more attention worldwide, ramping up of the delivery the program is a key priority for Phase 5.



## Short-term Youth Fellowship

With funding support from the US Biological Threat Reduction Program and Sandia National Laboratories, this short-term fellowship will award an IFBA certified professional youth the opportunity to engage with the IFBA's international community of certified professionals and potential exam candidates for enhanced delivery of the IFBA's professional certification program. The IFBA's member biosafety associations, partners and stakeholders will also be surveyed through a needs analysis of the certification program. Information gathered will be brought forward during a virtual presentation to the IFBA Certification Body strategic planning meeting to be held from August 8-9, 2023, at the IFBA's Secretariat headquarters in Canada.

Enhancing the functionality and use of the [IFBA online Community Portal](#) for candidates and certified professionals through the sharing of study materials (including translated versions), group discussions, candidate and certified professional online messaging, engage to win challenges & prizes, monthly campaigns, and networking is also a key aspect of the fellowship's project and recommendations.



This part-time paid fellowship runs over a 4-month period and accommodates a virtual working environment with the IFBA Secretariat staff. The fellowship provides an opportunity for a highly motivated and passionate young certified professional to build the IFBA's certification program globally with a particular emphasis on actively engaging youth, women and underrepresented communities in the program. The successful fellow will learn more about implementing a global certification program and gain exposure to challenges and practical solutions for potential candidates.

## Applications

All applications are to be submitted no later than May 19, 2023 through the online application form accessed at the following link: [IFBA Youth Fellowship Application Form](#)  
To be eligible, applicants must hold a valid IFBA Professional Certification in at least one technical discipline. Preference will be given to individuals who:

- Have experience in studying and sitting for an IFBA exam in more than one technical discipline, and/or in a language other than English, and/or in multiple formats (i.e., paper-based session and online exam session)
- Have experience in engaging in biosafety discussions with peers and colleagues through various social media and virtual platforms
- Are familiar with the IFBA's online community portal
- Are a member of an IFBA Member Biosafety Association at the national or regional level
- Are a young emerging biosafety/biosecurity professional from the Global South