



IOM RESEARCH PARTNERS PANEL

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

As the UN Migration Agency, the [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) undertakes research to inform migration policy and practice. IOM may conduct research independently, in collaboration with researchers and institutions, or commission external researchers and organizations to undertake research on its behalf.

The Research Unit (RES) is based at IOM Headquarters within the Department of Data, Insight and Policy and is responsible for supporting and managing applied research on key migration topics. Research activities are designed to strengthen IOM's programme delivery and contribute to a broader understanding of migration dynamics, trends, and their implications for policy and practice.

RES frequently collaborates with universities, research institutions, think tanks and independent researchers. These collaborations allow IOM to benefit from diverse perspectives, specialized expertise and local knowledge while expanding the geographical, linguistic and thematic diversity of migration research. Partnerships are particularly important for generating evidence from regions and contexts that remain underrepresented in migration research.

In October 2021, following an initial Call for Expressions of Interest, RES established the IOM Research Partners Panel, an internal information resource available to IOM Headquarters, Regional Offices, and Country Offices. The Panel comprises selected research institutions that are registered and may be approached for the purpose of consulting with IOM on migration research projects. The Panel is currently constituted of more than 90 research institutions.

This *Call for Expressions of Interest* is being conducted to expand the IOM Research Partners Panel by identifying both **research organizations** and, **for the first time, individual researchers** interested in consulting with IOM on migration research projects. The objective is to strengthen the Panel's geographic, linguistic, and thematic diversity while broadening the range of expertise available to support migration research, policy, and practice.

Selected organizations and individual researchers will be registered in the IOM's Research Partners Panel, which will be made available to all IOM Regional and Country offices as a valuable information resource.

Who can apply?

This Call for Expressions of Interest is open to research organizations and individual researchers, including:

Organizations	Individual researchers
• Research institutes • Universities and university departments • Research centers and programmes • Think tanks • Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) • Consulting firms and research consultancies • Other organizations with demonstrated expertise in migration research	• Academic researchers • Independent consultants • Research fellows • Experts in migration research • Practitioners with significant research experience

To be considered for inclusion in the Research Partners Panel, research organizations and individual researchers should demonstrate expertise and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Migration data, trends and statistics
- Drivers of migration
- Migration and development
- Irregular migration
- Migrant smuggling and human trafficking
- Labour migration
- Diaspora
- Remittances
- Migrant integration
- Return migration and reintegration
- Public perceptions of migration
- Displacement and forced migration
- Migration and health
- Children in migration
- Family migration
- Migrant rights
- Migration policy & law

How can interested organizations and individual researchers apply?

Interested organizations and individual researchers are invited to submit an expression of interest through this [online form](#), available in English, French and Spanish

Expressions of interest must be submitted no later than **13 September 2026**.

Can researchers affiliated with an institution apply both as individuals and as institutional representatives?

Yes. Researchers affiliated with a research institution or organization may apply to be registered in the Research Partners Panel both as individual researchers and as part of an institution, although the forms and information required are different. This allows IOM to consider both the individual's expertise and the institutional capacities of their organization when identifying potential partners.

What happens after the Expression of Interest has been submitted?

IOM will assess whether the research organization or the individual researcher demonstrates the required expertise and experience relevant to migration research. Information provided may be verified by IOM and references may be contacted. Successful applicants, whether organizations or individual researchers, will be notified of their inclusion in the Research Partners Panel.

When will applicants be informed of the outcome of their Expression of Interest application?

Following the submission deadline, applications will undergo a technical evaluation and due diligence review. Given the expected volume of applications, we anticipate completing the assessment process during Q4 2026. All selected applicants will be informed of the outcome via email.

Does registration on the Panel automatically lead to research assignments or consultancies?

No. Registration on the panel **does not constitute engagement** on IOM's part for future cooperation. IOM is not required to use those on the panel, nor are panel members obliged to work with IOM. The contractual engagement of researchers is ultimately a decision for a specific IOM office or department; the role of RES is merely to facilitate their access to a panel of researchers and institutions which have been assessed and verified. Further, notification of registration on the Panel is not a guarantee that the institution will be offered any contractual arrangement by IOM.



Will the information be shared or communicated to anyone?

No. The information you provide will be used only internally within IOM and updated at regular intervals through subsequent Calls for Expressions of Interests. Organizations may withdraw or update their details anytime by contacting research@iom.int.

Our research institution is already registered in the IOM's Research Partners Panel. Do we need to resubmit an application?

No. Organizations already registered in the Research Partners Panel do not need to submit a new application unless specifically requested by IOM or unless they wish to update their information. On this topic, currently registered organizations should have received an email in July 2026 requesting to confirm their interest in remaining a member of the panel and asking them to confirm their information. If you have already confirmed your interest, and reviewed and updated your information as needed, no further action is required.

Researchers affiliated with an institution or representing an organization already registered in the Panel may also choose to submit a separate application as individual researchers.

For any updates to your organization's information or for other questions regarding the Research Partners Panel, please contact: research@iom.int