



BIAZA Research Committee Support

Guidance for Applicants

Please read these notes before filling in the application form. When the BIAZA Research Group (BRG) supports an application, we are asking zoos to commit a lot of time and possibly other resources to it, so it is important that the application is of the highest quality.

To be successful in gaining BRG support for your project, please do the following before submitting your application:

- 1) Read Chapter 1 of the BIAZA Research Handbook. Available [here](#).
- 2) Check the list of previously completed projects that can be found at the [BIAZA website](#); if a very similar project to the one that you propose has recently been completed, or there are several already, you will be less likely to obtain BRG approval.
- 3) See if your research interest falls within one of BIAZA's 'priority research interests' as this will enhance the likelihood that you will obtain BRG support. See [here](#).
- 4) Ensure that your proposal has been fully proof-read and that your supervisor has reviewed the application form so that all parties involved understand the aims and objectives of the proposed research.
- 5) Please show evidence that you have read around the subject area and that your proposal is supported by quality literature that highlights the reason why your research is of interest and importance.
- 6) Ask yourself if you can build on the work of others and use a method published in quality source material, but apply the work to a different species or novel situation. If you can show that you are interested in a specific area of zoo biology and you want to extend its sphere of influence, then you'll be undertaking current and useful research.
- 7) Think about the area of experimentation that could be of real benefit, rather than your favourite species of animal. Could you do something that has a wide reaching goal and utilises under-studied species, rather than being 'just another tiger enrichment project'?
- 8) Please write out an experimental design (methodology) that makes it obvious as to what you plan to do, what data will be collected and how the data will be manipulated. Ideally, run over this with your supervisor before you contact BIAZA. Proposals where the method is unclear, unworkable or poorly constructed are not likely to be supported.
- 9) Finally, keep your proposal concise but detailed and specific to your research question. It is better to explain the experimental area rather than the biology of the animal that will be your study area. Think about including information on why there is a 'problem' to be investigated, what 'story' your research process will tell and what the impact of your potential findings will be.