

# Graduate Researchers Award

*Support session for nodes*



# History of Graduate Researchers Award / Young Researchers Award

Annual programme established in 2010 in response to a growing call to recognize the achievements and research excellence of graduate students across the GBIF network.

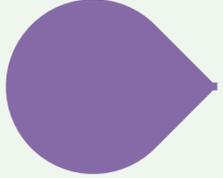
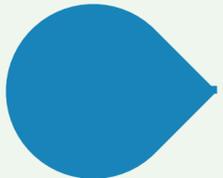
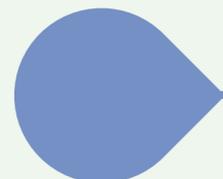
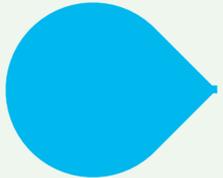
The programme awards two graduate students (Masters/PhD) each year from GBIF participant countries with prizes of €5,000 each.

## Roles

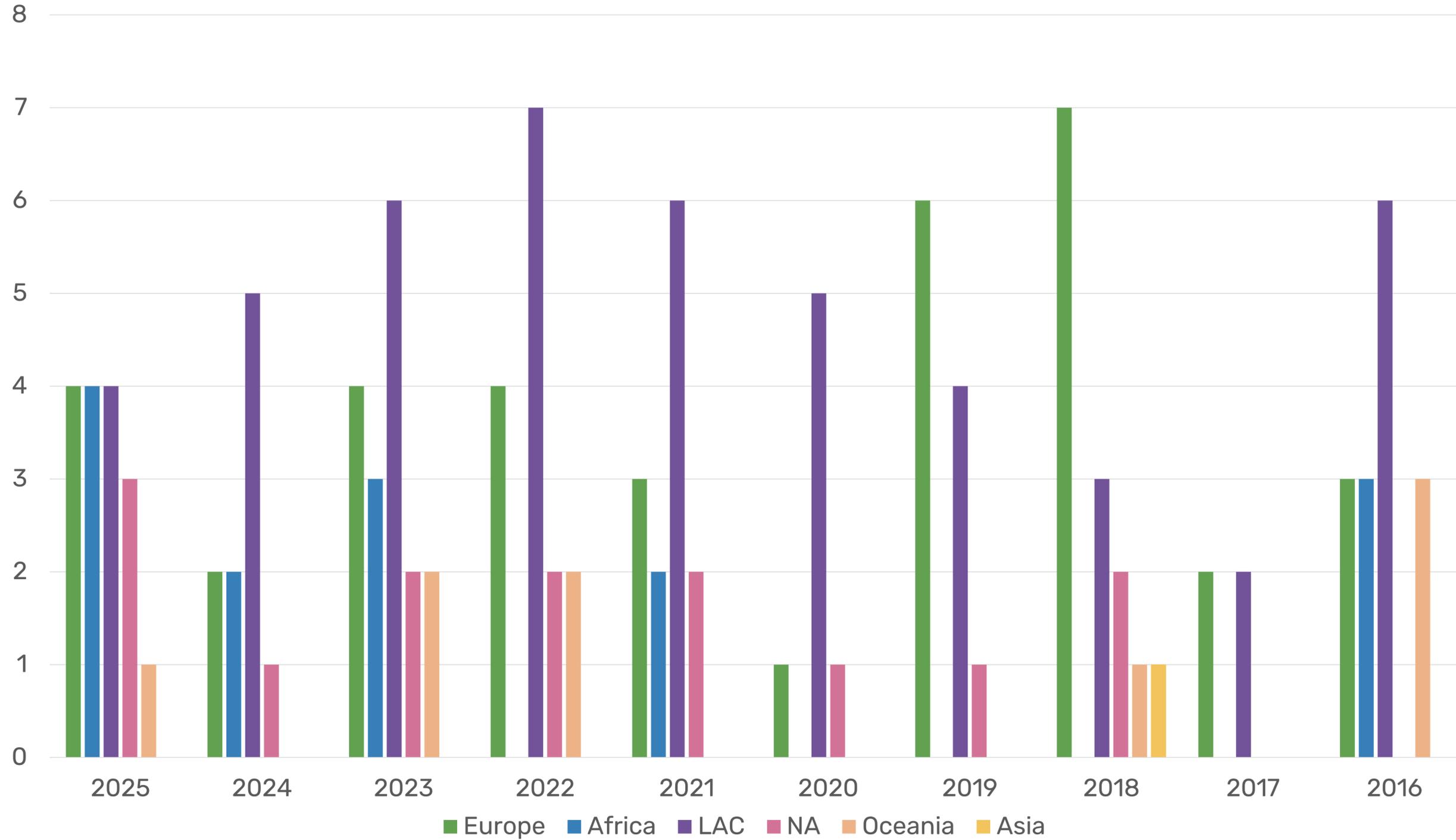
- **GBIF Secretariat:** Create and promote the call, provide administrative support to the Jury, lead administration and comms with winners once selection is finalized
- **Node managers & HoDs:** Lead the country level call, promote the programme within local research networks, select and nominate up to two students
- **Science Committee:** Convene the selection Jury, responsible for the final award selection.



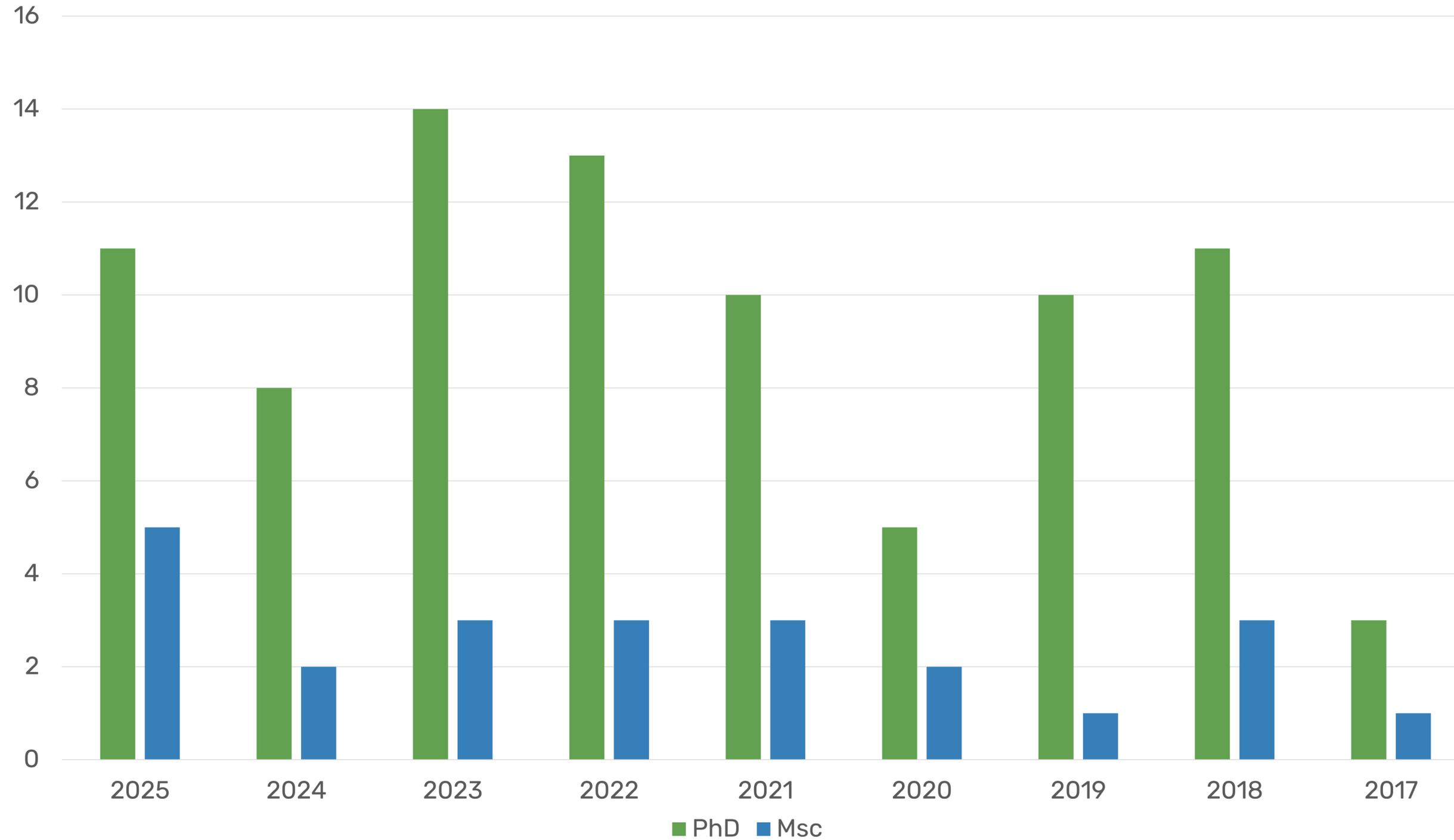
# Process

- 1** GBIF announces 2026 Graduate Researchers Award call  
 Call officially opened 20 January 2026
- 2** Country participants set deadline to receive local applications  
 Countries work with their research communities to promote the call locally to Masters and PhD students/course convenors/universities
- 3** Country-level processes  
 Country delegations work to review, evaluate and nominate up to two applicants to submit to the GBIF Secretariat/ Science Committee for consideration in the global pool
- 4** Secretariat/ Science Committee  
 Jury assembled to evaluate each nomination received. Raw scores are received, averaged and z-normalized per candidate to give the final ranking in each category (Masters and PhD)  
Secretariat informs and works with winners on comms for announcement 

## Graduate Researchers Award *Regional participation over time*



## Graduate Researchers Award *PhD vs Msc participation over time*



# FAQs – running a country-level process

## **What evaluation criteria should be prioritized when selecting candidates?**

- Submissions at a global level are evaluated equally based on i) Originality & innovation, ii) The role GBIF-enabled data plays in the proposal iii) Potential outcome assessment for advancing the biodiversity community. It is recommended to adopt a similar approach at the country level.

## **What should the review panel at a country-level look like?**

- It is recommended to have at least two reviewers; these can be internal staff or external people from the biodiversity community. However, when selecting candidates for nomination, it is important to avoid conflicts of interest.

## **What constitutes a “strong” nomination from previous years?**

- See previous winners here: <https://www.gbif.org/graduate-researchers-award>



**More questions? Contact:**

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