



Faculty of Education  
Fakulteit Opvoeding  
Leŋapha la Thuto

*This is the joint call by the World Education Research Association (WERA), the International Association for the Evaluation of the Educational Achievement (IEA), and Research Centers “Centre for the Study of Resilience” (CSR) and Centre for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA) at the University of Pretoria (UP)*

## **WERA VISITING RESEARCHER AWARDS** GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCHERS IN EDUCATION

### **Call for WERA Visiting Researcher Award at University of Pretoria, South Africa**

We jointly offer academics the opportunity to visit the Centre for the Study of Resilience (CSR), the Centre for Evaluation and Assessment (CEA), University of Pretoria (UP). This opportunity forms part of collaborative efforts by WERA, IEA and UP Faculty of Education Research Centers to contribute to the advancement of educational research. This award enables visiting researchers to develop their own research project while benefiting from the individual support of the CSR and CEA experts. Relevant expertise is focused on communicating science from international large-scale assessments to systemic stakeholders in order to enable impact of evidence.

#### **Main features of the visitor award**

The main aims of the program are to:

- Contribute to enhancing the research projects of the academic visitors by providing support from UP and IEA experts;
- Provide visitors with direct access to IEA data and resources in order to help them carry out their research projects;
- Provide the opportunity to collaborate with CSR and CEA research staff and promote networking within a worldwide research community.

Expectations and advice for the visitors:

- Academic visitors are expected to work on their research project using IEA data;
- Academic visitors are encouraged to initiate a collaboration with our experts on a specific research project, ideally aiming for a joint publication;
- Academic visitors are expected to present their work within a joint IEA-CSR-CEA-colloquium;
- Academic visitors are expected to report on their visit and its results to WERA; the report might be published on both, the WERA and UP websites.

Suggested Foci for the Research Project

1. Communicating science for use in classrooms:
  - a. Dialogic interaction with teachers on their understanding and use of PIRLS, TIMSS, and other large-scale data ‘Tips for teachers’
  - b. Place-based interaction between CSR, CEA researchers, and South African teachers (via the Department of Basic Education Directorate Rural Education) to gain insight on teaching in rural spaces across Africa (and the global South) and use evidence from large-scale data to inform teaching practices.
2. Engage with research teams at CSR and CEA (communicating science to teachers, and policymakers).

Awardees will be provided with:

- An academic mentor at each Research Centre for the duration of their stay;
- Expert support for specific topics on request;
- A working place, a personal computer with basic software (upon request), access to internet, printer, telephone, and basic office supplies.

The visit will last six weeks in the first quarter of 2024 (i.e., mid-January to mid-April). Exact dates will be negotiated with the awardee. Shortened or extended visits may be arranged upon request.

## Finances

- Awardees will receive a grant of € 3,000 from the IEA that is intended to cover flight, public transport, accommodation, health insurance, meals, and other subsistence costs during the stay. The University of Pretoria will provide support to organize the accommodation.

## Eligibility

To qualify for the visitor award, the applicant will need to:

- Work on a research project related to IEA- and/ or UP (CSR/CEA) studies during your stay;
- Obtain the necessary visa and arrange your own travel to Pretoria, South Africa;
- Present proof of valid medical insurance coverage for the stay in South Africa;
- Be able to communicate fluently in English.

To be eligible, you must meet all four conditions. If you cannot meet one or more of these conditions, please consider postponing your application until you can comply with all of them.

## How to apply

Please provide the following documents:

- Letter of request, including the preferred dates for your visit, the general objectives of your visit, and the specific activities you would like to focus on;
- Your CV with a record of publications (if applicable);
- A proposal or research protocol referring to the focus of your visit. This must include the following items:
  - Summary;
  - Objectives;
  - Literature review;
  - Data;
  - Methods;
  - Expected results.
- The proposal must not exceed 2,000 words.

Please send all documents via email to [wera@aera.net](mailto:wera@aera.net). Applicants are requested to insert '2024 WERA-IEA-UP Academic Visitors Program' into the subject of their email when submitting the application.

## Selection process

The deadline for your applications is the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023. All applications are reviewed by an academic committee (representatives of WERA, IEA, and CSR&CEA (UP)). Candidates will be notified of acceptance or rejection within eight weeks of the deadline.

Please be assured that the information you send us is used only for the internal review process and will never be passed on to any third party.