

Call for research applications: “Observing the election process in Nigeria”

The unfolding electoral moment in Nigeria is a period of critical importance for the country, and the West African region. To observe and analyze these elections and their impacts in a short and long-term perspective, the French Institute for Research in Nigeria, based at the Institute of African Studies (University of Ibadan) is launching an observatory overseeing the 2027 elections in Nigeria. The aim is to produce socio-anthropological materials and analysis on the election process. For this, IFRA-Nigeria is funding four emerging Nigerian researchers to conduct fieldwork-based research upon different topics (voting patterns, public space dynamics, political violence, etc.). By doing so, we wish to promote new points of views and analytical lenses to understand topical issues in social sciences. We wish to give space and voice to various topics, some more studied ones (insecurity, voter inducement, hate speech, corruption, gender and vulnerable groups before, during and after the elections), but also some less evident questions, like insights on institutions or bodies involved in the electoral process, the importance of dissonant voices, mobilizations for rights during electoral time, minority groups empowerment, etc.

Applicants must submit in a **single pdf document**:

- a CV
- a short cover letter (2 pages max.) presenting academic background and interest in working for this specific research program.
- a fieldwork proposal (3 pages max. excluding bibliography) including a title, the background and rationale underpinning their project, research question(s), a methodological approach, a schedule, and a bibliography. For more information regarding how to write such a proposal, you can consult our *Research proposal writing guide* available on the [“calls & grants” page](#) of our website.

Please note IFRA-Nigeria has an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy which you **must** get acquainted with **before** writing your proposal. Any infringement of this policy, including not disclosing the use of AI, can result in a ban from IFRA-Nigeria’s opportunities and activities. You can find our AI policy by [clicking here](#) or on the “calls & grants page of our website.

It is important when writing a proposal to keep in mind the feasibility of the study. This implies that the fieldwork one wishes to undertake must not expose you to unreasonable dangers.

Furthermore, we encourage the applicants to adopt a multimethod and qualitative approach, such as participant observation, semi-structured interviews and focus groups for example.

Essential information:

The fieldwork must take place between December 2026 and February 2027.

Deadline for applications: 20th October, 2026.

You must submit your CV, cover letter and fieldwork proposal **in a single pdf document** to marie.lureau@ifra-nigeria.org and o.edafe@ifra-nigeria.org

Required qualifications: Being a master's student or having already obtained at least a master's degree in any topic pertaining to humanities and social sciences.

Desired qualifications: Having fieldwork experience and hands-on experience with the methodological approach presented in the proposal is strongly desired.

Deliverable: a scientific paper

Grant: 500 euros