

Guidelines for FBA Research Working Groups (RWGs)

Eligibility for membership

The members of FBA Research Working Groups are, as a rule, well merited senior researchers at universities or well-established research institutes who conduct high-quality scientific research on issues of great relevance to the work of FBA (see <https://fba.se/en/>) and regularly contribute to peer-reviewed academic publications. Their research is theoretically informed, methodologically sound and empirically oriented, and aim at advancing the research front in their field of expertise. Personal qualities – such as a strong ability to provide constructive feedback to peers and a dedicated interest in contributing to policy development – are also considered.

Acceptance of new members

Membership is considered by recommendation from existing members only or by invitation from FBA research staff. PhD candidates are considered only in exceptional circumstances or when recommended by a supervisor who is also a member. An assigned committee with senior researchers at FBA will consider recommended members on a case-by-case basis throughout the year. Prospective members will normally be invited to attend a FBA research event prior to being formally accepted as member.

Conditions for membership

Members will hold a general membership in the FBA RWGs. In order to retain the membership and be eligible for our research grants, active participation in FBA-organized activities is required. As a rule and unless special circumstances apply, members are expected to regularly (at least once in a span of about two years) attend our workshops. Members are also expected to contribute to the FBA lunch seminars, to the FBA Research Brief series and participate in other invited activities. The expectation is also that members, when time and other work assignments allow, are available to advice FBA staff on research matters relating to their expertise. Members are encouraged to explore opportunities for joint cooperation with FBA staff, for example a research-based evaluation of a FBA-organized programme or training. The FBA research team are also open for suggestions regarding joint organization of book launches for research which has at least partly been funded by FBA grants.

Research Workshops

Each year, a unique combination of different workshops will be organized. All members will, as a rule, be invited to apply to all FBA research activities including all thematic workshops. Selection for attendance is made on the basis of a paper abstract (unless otherwise stated), and only members with relevant ongoing research can attend. Some workshops will have a more narrow thematic focus and some will explore broader themes or deliberately open up for more cross-cutting participation. In addition, some will have a traditional research format and others will include an added policy element. The ambition is to occasionally hold the workshops in locations that bring us geographically closer to the realities which is the focus of the research.

The intention is to preserve a strong sense of ownership among the member, and members are encouraged to suggest future themes, locations and formats. Offers to co-host are appreciated. Members with relevant abstracts can attend more than one workshop per year, but in situations of competition, there are limits on how many times a member can present the same or a very similar paper. Members who are already visiting a particular location at the time of the workshop, or can fully or partly fund their travel and stay on a FBA research grant, are encouraged to mention so when they submit their abstracts. This may allow FBA to expand the quota of participants that can be accepted to each workshop. It is also possible for relevant and well-qualified researchers (for example co-authors or research colleagues) who are not members to attend the occasional workshop, but members with relevant abstracts will always be prioritized in case of competition for space.