



UNIDROIT

International Institute for the Unification of Private Law

UNIDROIT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME FOR TOP-FLIGHT LAWYERS

INFORMATION FOR DONORS

UNIDROIT is an intergovernmental organisation with 63 member States in the five continents, set up to prepare legal instruments (international Conventions, model laws, general principles) proposing modern, equitable rules to govern relations between people and markets world-wide. A special concern is to give developing countries and countries in economic transition enhanced access to instruments that might serve in the preparation of domestic legislation in areas such as contract law, secured transactions, transport, civil procedure, the protection of the cultural heritage, capital markets law, and so on. The *UNIDROIT Research Scholarships Programme* provides an opportunity for such countries to build expert knowledge for modernising their law.

The *Research Scholarships Programme* is primarily intended for academics – university professors as well as graduate and postgraduate students –, government officials and judges. Since its inception in 1993, more than 200 top-flight scholars from over 60 countries have conducted research at the internationally renowned UNIDROIT Library in Rome for periods ranging from six weeks to three months.

The Programme is funded primarily by external donors, mainly national co-operation agencies and private sponsors. The evident benefits of the Programme and the continuing improvement of the library research facilities have created an increased need for new resources, not least in view of the particularly large number of applications which are received each year.

Beneficiaries are selected by a sub-committee of the UNIDROIT Governing Council on the basis of the research project submitted by each applicant and the practical fall-out it is expected to have in the applicant's country of origin. Scholars submit a report at the end of their research period. The Secretariat for its part submits a status and financial report on the Programme at the end of each year.

Funding covers cost of living expenses (averaging 1,500 Euros per person per month) and, for participants from Asia and Africa, sometimes also travel costs. Donors are invited to contribute a lump sum to the Fund and may attach special conditions if they wish (*e.g.* geographical origin of researchers, area of research, etc.). As a rule of thumb, a global grant of 10,000 Euros would pay for a full two-month scholarship for 3 scholars (one including travel costs). Another formula successfully implemented by the Secretariat is to grant a partial scholarship on condition that the other part is funded by some other source. Under such conditions, a global grant of 5,000 Euros could finance a partial scholarship, without travel costs, for 3 scholars. The Secretariat would be happy to define, together with the donor, ways of giving appropriate publicity to special donations to the Programme.

The UNIDROIT Secretariat would welcome proposals for co-operation on the part of new donors, and is at their full disposal for any further information they might require.

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