



U N I D R O I T

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 from across five continents, set up to prepare legal instruments (*e.g.* international Conventions, model laws, general principles) and to propose modern, equitable rules to govern relations between people and markets world-wide. A special priority 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 postgraduate students but is also for government officials and judges. Since its beginning in 1993, more than 300 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 exclusively 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 increasing need for new resources, not least in view of the particularly large number of applications received each year.

Beneficiaries are selected by the UNIDROIT Secretary-General on the basis of the research project submitted by each applicant and the practical impact 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 submits a status and financial report on the Programme at the end of each year.

Funding covers the cost of living expenses (averaging 1,600 Euros per person per month) and, for participants from Africa and Asia, occasionally travel costs as well. Donors are invited to contribute a lump sum to the Fund and may put forward special conditions if they wish (*e.g.* geographical origin of researchers, area of research, etc.). For example, a global grant of 10,000 Euros would cover a full two-month scholarship for three scholars (one including travel costs for one scholar). Another formula successfully applied by the Secretariat is to grant a partial scholarship on condition that the other part is funded by some other source. Therefore, a global grant of 5,000 Euros could finance a partial scholarship, without travel costs, for three scholars. The Secretariat would be grateful to define, together with the donor, ways of giving appropriate publicity for 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 that they might require.

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