
ECCO Fellowships Fact Sheet

The [European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation](#) (ECCO) offers Fellowships to encourage and support early career individuals and promote innovative scientific research in the area of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD) in Europe.

ECCO Fellowships enhance the opportunity for IBD Trainees to work in European centres other than their own. Both the host institution and the Fellow are responsible for the successful outcome of the ECCO Fellowship.

ECCO Fellowships are not limited to applicants from [ECCO Member Countries](#). However, the applications from [ECCO Member Countries](#) will be given preference.

The **target audience** are **early career basic/clinical scientists who are:**

- a. not yet 40 years old at the submission deadline, or**
- b. 40 years or older, who are within five years of the date of completion of their GI training or PhD graduation** (a certificate needs to be provided)

Up to two ECCO Fellowships may be given in 2024.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible, the applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must submit an original research project proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
2. Both the applicant and their host supervisor need to be [ECCO Members](#) at the submission deadline.
3. At the time of the application (as well as prior to the commencement of the ECCO Fellowship) the applicant cannot be involved/work in any research project at the future host institute.
4. The applicant can apply for only one ECCO Award category per call.
5. Recipients who were awarded an ECCO Fellowship in the past cannot reapply.
6. Members of [ECCO Governing Board](#) and [ECCO Scientific Committee](#) are excluded from applying.

Terms of Submission

1. A total of **EUR 60.000** will be awarded per ECCO Fellowship. The ECCO Fellowship award has to be used to cover the applicant's salary. At the end of the ECCO Fellowship period, an official statement has to be signed by the awardee and the host institute to confirm that the full prize amount was used as salary for the awardee.

If, after the award of an ECCO Fellowship, a separate application for funding the same project is successful, then the host is required to inform SciCom. This is to allow appropriate discussion of a separate funding body providing the salary of the individual and recognition of ECCO support.

2. The duration of the award is one year. The proposed study is therefore expected to be completed within one year (feasibility criterion, see "review process" below).
3. A department may support one application per ECCO Award per annual call.
4. All applicants should submit a proposal for the research project using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#) containing the following information:
 - Project title
 - Name, full address, affiliation(s), ECCO Member ID of the applicant
 - Name and full address of the host institute
 - Name and ECCO Member ID of the host supervisor
 - Abstract including aims, methods and anticipated impact (max. 300 words)
 - Introduction (max. 900 words)
 - Objectives (max. 450 words)
 - Methodology and working plan with particular attention to feasibility (max. 1350 words)
 - Chronogram with mandatory milestones and specific deliverables of the project aligned with work plan
 - Significance and impact of the proposed project on the IBD Community (max. 250 words)
 - Background of the group (max. 450 words)
 - Training capacity of the project and the group (max. 450 words)

As well as the following documents:

- CV of the applicant
 - A confirmation letter from the Head of Department of the host institution stating that the applicant is accepted for an ECCO Fellowship, and will be under the supervision of a designated host and that the host institution will cover consumables and the full salary of the candidate for up to 12 months
 - IRB approval (clinical/experimental) of the project
5. The annual deadline for submission for ECCO Fellowship applications is **May 1, 2023**.
 6. ECCO Fellowships aim to enhance the opportunity for IBD Trainees to work in European centres. Exceptional circumstances such as an applicant from an [ECCO Member Country](#) travelling to a non-member country will be considered, but such an application is likely to receive a lower priority than an applicant from a member/non-member country visiting an [ECCO Member Country](#).
 7. Applications are scored by IBD Specialists according to six criteria (see review process below). The Scientific Committee of ECCO (SciCom) selects up to two applications. Applicants are notified of the results in **October**.
 8. Payment of the Fellowship funds is contingent upon the ECCO Fellowship Agreement being signed by the Fellow, the host institute, and ECCO. The payment will be made before **December 31, 2023**.
 9. Successful applicants receive an ECCO Fellowship certificate at the annual ECCO Congress and are expected to be present to receive it in person.

10. The Abstract (300-word synopsis of the project) will be submitted for publication in ECCO News. Additionally, a final report (a synopsis of 300 words) is due within six months of the project-end date. Both reports should be submitted to the ECCO Office for publication in ECCO News. For report templates, please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu.
11. The ECCO Fellowship awardee is required to inform SciCom, via the ECCO Office (ecco@ecco-ibd.eu), of any publications resulting from the project funded. If this is not withheld, ECCO reserves the right to not review further applications of the ECCO Fellowship awardee.
12. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO is to be acknowledged on all printed matter as contributing to the funding. Please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations. In case this is not paid attention to, ECCO reserves the right to not review further applications of the ECCO Fellowship awardee.
13. ECCO encourages the ECCO Fellowship awardee to submit the project outcome to JCC for publication and/or as an abstract for the annual Congress of ECCO.
14. ECCO reserves the right to request a return of unused funds in the case of a serious impediment to project progress such as a significant delay or if an awardee withdraws from the project or field, or similar disruption.

Review Process

1. All applications are reviewed and scored by ECCO Committees Members or external IBD Specialists, based on the following criteria:
 1. Originality and innovation
 2. Methodology
 3. Feasibility of research project and budget
 4. International scientific level of the research team
 5. CV of the applicant
 6. Importance of the project in the field of IBD
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits, justified budget, IRB approval.
3. Reviewing: Each Fellowship application will be reviewed by two Members of ECCO Scientific Committee and a minimum of two other ECCO Committee Members or external IBD experts. The applications will be scored according to the six evaluation criteria and reviewers can make comments on each application.
4. Ranking: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: ECCO Scientific Committee (SciCom) makes the final selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board. Please note, in line with a general trend in the scientific world, the active peer reviewing contribution for ECCO will also become a weighing criterion in the selection process when candidate rankings are very close.
6. Notification: Applicants are notified of the results in **October**.

Reviewers

ECCO Fellowship Reviewers are invited according to their area of expertise and are selected from the following:

- ECCO Officers
- Former ECCO Congress speakers
- Acknowledged experts
- Former Fellowships and Grants awardees