
ECCO Grants Fact Sheet

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

ECCO Grants are designed to support IBD Research within the country of affiliation. Typically, research for ECCO Grant projects is undertaken in the home institution of the applicant.

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

The **target applicants** 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 in English to be provided)

Up to ten ECCO Grants may be awarded in 2025.

Eligibility

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

1. The applicant must submit an original research proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
2. The applicant needs to be an [ECCO Member](#) at the submission deadline.
3. The applicant can apply for only one ECCO Award category per annual call.
4. Recipients who have been awarded an ECCO Grant in the past cannot reapply.
5. Members of [ECCO Governing Board](#) and [ECCO Scientific Committee](#) (SciCom) are excluded from applying.

Terms of Submission

1. A total of **EUR 80.000** will be awarded per ECCO Grant. The Grant funds can be spent on consumables and/or salary. A maximum EUR 40.000 of the prize can be spent on salary (up to 50% of the prize). ECCO expects to be informed if ECCO Grant applicants receive additional funding for their project; this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and should not conflict with funded activities ECCO.
2. The duration of the ECCO Grant 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 category per annual call.
4. Applicants should submit a proposal for a research project using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#) containing the following information:

- Project title
- Name, address, affiliation(s), ECCO Member ID of the applicant
- 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 research group (max. 450 words)
- Budget

As well as the following documents:

- CV of the applicant
 - A confirmation letter from the institution (e.g., confirming that the applicant is employed by the institution, and that the applicant will receive the necessary scientific and administrative support, and equipment)
 - IRB approval (clinical/experimental) of the project, if already available
 - Disclosure of additional funding
5. The annual deadline for submission for ECCO Grant applications is **May 2, 2024**.
 6. Applications are scored by IBD Specialists according to five criteria (see review process below). The Scientific Committee of ECCO (SciCom) selects up to ten applications. Applicants are notified of the results in **October 2024**.
 7. Payment of the Grant funds is contingent upon the ECCO Grant Agreement being signed by the Grant applicant, the research institution, and ECCO. The payment will be made before **December 31, 2024**.
 8. Successful applicants receive an ECCO Grant certificate at the annual ECCO Congress and are expected to be present to receive it in person.
 9. The Abstract, a 300-word synopsis of the project (extracted from the online project proposal) will be submitted to ECCO for publication in ECCO channels. Winning proposal abstracts are published in the [JCC Congress Abstract book](#). Additionally, a final synopsis of max. 300 words is within six months of the project end-date.
 10. For report templates, please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu.
 11. ECCO Grant awardees are required to inform SciCom, via the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu, of any publications and presentations (oral or poster) resulting from the project funded. If this is not upheld, ECCO reserves the right not to review further Grant applications of the Grant awardee.
 12. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO is to be acknowledged on all printed matters as contributing to the funding. Please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations. If this is not upheld, ECCO reserves the right to not review further applications of the Grant awardee.
 13. ECCO encourages awardees 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 (ECCO Officers) and external IBD Specialists, based on the following criteria:
 1. Originality and innovation
 2. Methodology
 3. Feasibility of the research project and budget - realistically achievable in 12 months and with the provided budget
 4. International scientific level of the research team
 5. 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 (if submitted).
3. Reviewing: Each Grant application will be reviewed by a minimum of three ECCO Officers & external reviewers. The applications will be scored according to the five evaluation criteria and reviewers can make comments on each application.
4. Ranking: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: The 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 2024**.

Reviewers

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

- [ECCO Officers \(Committee Members\)](#)
- Former ECCO Congress speakers
- Acknowledged experts
- [Former ECCO Fellowships & Grants awardees](#)