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## D-ECCO Research Grants Fact Sheet

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The [European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation](#) (ECCO) offers D-ECCO Research Grants for IBD dietitians to promote innovative scientific research in the area of nutrition across Europe.

D-ECCO Research Grants enhance the opportunity for dietitians to be involved in international research projects. The aim is to engage dietitians who are less experienced in carrying out research, to conduct proper systematic research under the mentorship of a senior researcher. Typically, research for a D-ECCO Grant project is coordinated by a senior researcher and conducted by IBD dietitian(s) with less research experience in other European centres. The coordinator acts as the Principal Investigator and will be responsible for the accomplishment of the study.

The D-ECCO Research Grants are not limited to applicants from [ECCO Country Members](#). However, the applications from [ECCO Country Members](#) will be given preference.

One D-ECCO Research Grants may be allocated in Call 2025 and awarded at ECCO'26.

### Eligibility

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

1. The applicant must submit an original research project 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 a D-ECCO Grant in the past cannot reapply.
5. Members of [ECCO Governing Board](#) and [D-ECCO](#) are excluded from applying.

### Terms of Submission

1. A total of **EUR 80.000** will be awarded per D-ECCO Research Grant. The Grant is not intended to provide a part of the salary for the candidate. ECCO expects to be informed if D-ECCO Research Grant applicants succeed in receiving additional funding for the same project; this is likely to be regarded as an "add-on" and should not conflict with ECCO funded activities.
2. The duration of the D-ECCO Research 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. 1200 words)
- Description of level of the involvement of junior research IBD dietitians in the research project and training aspects of the research process (max. 450 words)
- Significance and impact of the proposed project on the IBD Community (max. 250 words)
- Background of the research applicant(s) (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 of D-ECCO Research Grants applications is **May 5, 2025**.
  6. Applications are scored by D-ECCO Committee Members according to five criteria (see review process below). The D-ECCO Committee selects two applications. Applicants are notified of the results in **November 2025**.
  7. Payment of the Grant funds is contingent upon the D-ECCO Grant Agreement being signed between the D-ECCO Research Grant applicant, the research institution, and ECCO. The payment will be made before **December 31, 2025**.
  8. Successful applicants receive the D-ECCO Research Grant certificate at the annual Congress of ECCO and are encouraged to be present to receive it in person.
  9. A 300-word synopsis (extracted from the project proposal abstract) will be published in ECCO Channels and the [JCC Congress Abstract book](#).
  10. Additionally, a final synopsis of max. 300 words is due within six months after the project end-date.  
For report templates, please contact the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu).
  11. D-ECCO Research Grants awardees are required to inform D-ECCO Committee, via the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto: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 to not review further ECCO applications of the 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](mailto: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 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 the awardee withdraws from the project or field, or similar disruption.

## Review Process

1. All applications will be reviewed and scored by D-ECCO Committee Members based on the following criteria:
  1. Originality and innovation
  2. Methodology
  3. Feasibility of the project work plan – realistically achievable in 12 months and with the provided budget
  4. The level of involvement of junior research IBD dietitians in the project
  5. Importance of the project in the field of nutrition and dietitians in 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 D-ECCO Grant application will be reviewed by D-ECCO Committee Members. The applications will be scored according to the five evaluation criteria and reviewers can make comments on each application.
4. Ranking: The applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: The D-ECCO Committee makes the final selection and seeks approval from SciCom and 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 by **November 2025**.