
ECCO Fellowship Fact Sheet

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

ECCO Research Fellowships aim to enhance the opportunity for IBD Trainees to work in European centres.

Applicants should be aware that these awards are offered to young and enthusiastic basic and/or clinical scientists. Individuals with a well-established career in the field of IBD Research are not considered eligible for these ECCO Fellowships.

Up to two ECCO Fellowships may be given each year.

In order to be eligible, the candidate must:

1. Not be older than 40 years or still in training at the time of application.
2. Submit an original research project using the "ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages". Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
3. Have a hosting laboratory and/or department outside one's own country of practice, which has accepted to host and guide the Fellow under the supervision of a designated host for the duration of the Fellowship. The hosting institution is responsible, together with the Fellow, for the successful completion of the project.
4. At the time of the application as well as prior to the commencement of the Fellowship the candidate must not be involved/work in any research project at the future hosting institute.
5. If your hosting institute holds a current ECCO Fellowship, then another application for this period is not possible. Therefore, an institute cannot apply for two ECCO Fellowships in consecutive years.
6. ECCO Fellowship applicants and their host supervisors need to be ECCO Members (at the time of application).
7. ECCO Fellowship applicants are not limited to the ECCO Member Countries and can apply from non-European countries; however, the impact of the project for the IBD Community has to be clearly stated.
8. 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 non-member country visiting an ECCO Member Country.

Terms of submission

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

If, after the award of an ECCO Fellowship, a separate application for funding the 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.
3. Only one proposal may be submitted per applicant by the official submission date.
4. Members of ECCO Governing Board are excluded from applying.
5. All applicants should submit a proposal for the research project using the "ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages" that should contain the following headings:
 - Project title and PI
 - Name, full address, affiliations, ECCO Membership ID number of the applicant
 - Name and full address of the hosting institution
 - Name and ECCO Membership ID number of the host/supervisor
 - Summary of the proposal (300 words)
 - Introduction (900 words)
 - Objectives (450 words)
 - Methodology and working plan (including chronogram) (1350 words)
 - Significance and impact (225 words)
 - Background of the group (450 words)
 - Training capacity of the project and the group (450 words)

As well as the following documents:

- CV of the Fellowship candidate
 - Approval of the hosting institution
 - IRB (clinical/experimental) approval of the project
6. The annual deadline for submission for an ECCO Fellowship is **June 3**.
 7. Evaluation of applications is made according to seven criteria (see review process, below) by European IBD Specialists. Applications will be discussed by the Scientific Committee in autumn and applicants will be informed in **October**.
 8. Payment is processed before **December 31**, contingent upon the ECCO Fellowship Agreement signed between the Fellow, the hosting institution and ECCO.
 9. Successful applicants will receive the Fellowship at the ECCO Congress and are expected to be present.
 10. A 300 word synopsis of the project for ECCO News should be submitted within 4 months of receiving the award. The final report (a synopsis of 300 words) is due within 6 months of the project end and should be submitted to ECCO for publication on the ECCO Website and/or ECCO News. Please get in touch with ECCO Office for report templates at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu.
 11. The Fellow will be expected to present the results of their work at the annual Congress of ECCO one year after receipt of the award.
 12. Fellows are required to inform SciCom of all abstracts and publications of the project.
 13. When presenting or publishing results of the project, ECCO shall be acknowledged on all printed matter as contributing to their funding. Please contact the ECCO Office at ecco@ecco-ibd.eu to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations.
 14. ECCO encourages Fellowship awardees to offer the paper to JCC for publication.

Review Process

1. All projects will be reviewed and scored by the members of ECCO Committees with external review requested and expected, based on the following criteria:
 - Originality and innovative nature of the proposal
 - Methodology
 - Feasibility
 - International scientific level of the research team
 - CV of the applicant
 - Importance of the project in the field of IBD
 - Formal criteria (no indication of copy/paste application, compliance with word/page limits, justified budget, IRB approval)
2. The ECCO Scientific Committee makes the selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board.
3. The award of the ECCO Fellowships will be made during the next ECCO Congress.

Scoring System

The following procedure for the scoring system for Fellowships will apply:

1. *Review by ECCO Committee Members & external reviewers:* Each Fellowship application will be reviewed by 1 member of ECCO Committees and minimum 2 external reviewers. They will score their assigned applications according to the seven evaluation criteria and comment on each application.
2. *Ranking:* Applications are ranked according to their overall average scores.
3. *Final approval:* by the Governing Board of ECCO
4. *Acceptance/rejection letters:* Candidates will be informed of their application outcome by ECCO

Reviewers

Reviews for the Fellowships/Grants will be requested according to individual expertise and selected from the following candidates:

- ECCO Officers
- Former speakers at the ECCO Congress
- Acknowledged experts
- Successful candidates of Fellowships/Grants