

ECIU Research Mobility Fund

Rules and Regulations

Objectives of the ECIU Research Mobility Fund

ECIU recognises the importance of cooperation in science, technology and innovation to become world-leading research universities. The ECIU is committed to ensure that its researchers are connected across member universities, by offering opportunities for collaborative research. In this context, the ECIU has adopted a Research Mobility Fund, aiming at increasing mobility amongst its researchers. Researchers from ECIU universities interested in establishing or extending high-profile collaborative scientific relations with ECIU partners may apply for travel support.

Overall aims of the programme:

- Bring together researchers of ECIU universities, catalysing international research excellence;
- Support professional development of researchers, by acquiring specific know-how from experience and good practice abroad;
- Incentive further (international) high quality research outputs within ECIU, for example towards joint research funding grant applications, publications and research projects;
- Provide access to the excellent research facilities within ECIU;
- Strengthen research collaboration within ECIU and build a professional network of colleagues in other ECIU universities (internationalization), for the benefit of each individual and ECIU as a whole.

Basic application rules

While any researcher based at an ECIU university is in principle eligible to apply for the ECIU Research Mobility Fund, the ECIU explicitly encourages early career researcher to apply. The Research Mobility Fund is open to all disciplines; preferences are given to applications addressing the ECIU joint strategic research areas of Smart Society and Industry 4.0 (see ECIU website for specific information about research topics). Connection to Innovation and Entrepreneurship is furthermore of added value to an application. Funds may be also considered for applications aiming at exploring collaborations between multiple ECIU universities.

The fund specifically supports travels to European ECIU universities, as well as to the associate ECIU partner Tec de Monterrey (Mexico).

Applications can be made for up to €5,000 to pump-prime the development of international research collaborations within ECIU. The funding should be used primarily for outgoing travel (at economic rates) and associated subsistence costs. If experiments are planned, coverage of lab costs (including access) is to be agreed between both participating universities. Attendance fees for conference or symposium, as well as costs for consultancy work for research proposals, are in principle not supported by the fund.

Duration of stay is negotiated on an individual basis; applicants are encouraged to a minimum stay of one week. When applying (see below, for application procedure), researchers are requested to indicate the duration and the proposed start date of the stay.

An individual researcher is restricted to one application per calendar year. Once the grant has ended, funds cannot be used to meet the costs of an activity that will fall beyond the actual end date of the grant.

Application procedure

An application to the ECIU Research Mobility Fund consists of an application form (completely filled and signed), and a short CV of the applicant (two-page max). The application form can be found on the ECIU website.

Applications can be made at any time through the academic year. Application should be sent to the local contact person for the ECIU Research Mobility Fund, at the “sending institution”. The list of contact persons of the ECIU Research Mobility Fund can be found at the end of this website.

Application assessment

Funds are managed by each university, which includes assessment of applications and decision-to-grant, for own applicants. The local contact person for the ECIU Research Mobility Fund will seek to communicate the result of each application within 14 days of its receipt.

Decision to grant is based on the assessment of expected quality and impact of the prospective collaboration. Specifically, it will be assessed whether:

- Purpose and clarity of outcomes from proposed collaboration are clearly articulated;
- Research goals behind the specific collaboration are clearly identified.
- Resulting research and/or knowledge exchange benefits to collaborating parties and universities are evident.
- Longer-term mechanisms for supporting collaboration beyond ECIU fund are considered.
- Application is economically budgeted.

Expected reporting

The selected applicants are expected to report to the ECIU Research Mobility Fund local contact person, within 1 month after the visit end date. Report should elaborate on the outcomes of the visit, namely specific output activities and further follow up plans. This may include plans on international/ peer-reviewed publications, grant applications, organization of meetings/ seminars, impact exploitation, and new industry partnerships.

FAQ

How much can I apply for?

Academics can apply for awards of up to **€5,000**, to pump-prime the development of international research collaborations.

What can the money be spent on?

The funding should be used primarily for outgoing travel and associated subsistence costs. The benefiting researcher remains an employee of the sending institution, and as such will be paid the

usual salary from the home institution; s/he must make sure to have sufficient insurance coverage, at all necessary levels while traveling abroad. Regarding financial support: while the sending institution supports accommodation and travels through the Research Mobility Fund, the receiving institution offers the office space; if experiments are planned, coverage of lab costs (including access) is to be agreed between both participating universities.

When and how can I apply?

Applications can be made at any time through the academic year, using the ECIU Research Mobility Grant Application Form along with a (two-page max) CV of the applicant. Please note that the form requires institutional supporting statement and signature, as part of the application. Please ensure that this is included **in the form** at the time of submission (your local contact for the ECIU Research Mobility fund will provide you with the information on the authorized person to sign the application). The application should be sent to the ECIU Research Mobility Fund local contact person.

How soon will I know of the outcome?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in 14 days.