

RULES and REGULATIONS

for

**The European Association of
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions**

(EAPCI)

A branch of the ESC

EDUCATION & TRAINING GRANTS PROGRAMME 2024

EAPCI Education and Training Grants Programme
Updated rules valid from 1 December 2023
Application for period 2024

Part A - RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS TO THE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the Education and Training Grant Programme

To provide an opportunity for clinical training in the field of interventional cardiology in a country from **ESC National Cardiac Societies** other than their own country of citizenship, permanent residence, or country of work/training for medical graduates having completed a major part of their cardiology training but before obtaining a “permanent”, “senior staff” or “consultant” position.

This programme can be considered as a valorisation of the geographical mobility as well as cultural exchanges and professional practice in the field of cardiology.

Training in fields directly related to cardiology may also be considered. The goal of this grant is to help young candidates attain clinical competence and acquire experience of high quality cardiological practice which enables them to contribute to improving academic and clinical standards upon return to their own country.

2. Candidates eligibility

Candidates eligible for the Education and Training Grant Programme are those who meet all the below requirements:

- Are citizen or permanent resident from a country among the 57 ESC National Cardiac Societies, **AND**, whose ‘country of work/training at the time of application’ is among the 57 ESC National Cardiac Societies (please refer to the *Appendix 1* at the end of this document for additional information).
- Are medical graduate providing they have already proved some research potential by publishing in medical journals **OR** are science graduate holding a PhD or DPhil degree or equivalent or have submitted a thesis before starting the training period relating to the grant.
- Are **under 40 years of age at the day of application deadline** (15 January 2024).
- Are members of the European Association of Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI).

IMPORTANT: final validation of the application will be subject to visa acceptance (when needed) and compliance with European Union Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications (if applicable).

NOTE:

- Candidates from non-EU countries meeting the eligibility requirements in terms of residence (as per Appendix I of the rules and regulations) will be required to ensure that they have a health insurance to apply for the 2024 EAPCI Fellowship Grants programme.
- Candidates who are in doubt about their eligibility are advised to contact the EAPCI prior to applying.
- Candidates are advised to read the explanatory notes carefully before applying.
- To promote interventional cardiology towards women and encourage them to choose interventional cardiology as a sub-specialty, the objective is that 50% of the grants are allocated to women in line with candidates' meritocracy and gender equity.

Note: The successful female grant candidates will be selected because of merit and scientific achievement and not purely based on gender.

3. Selection criteria

3.1 Selection criteria for candidates

Criteria for selection include career and scientific achievements to date, motivation, plans for the Grant period, career goals after the grant period, impact of the grant, experience in interventional cardiology (structural, coronaries).

Candidates are encouraged to propose a fellowship clinical project linked to their main field of interest.

Preference will be given to candidates who have not received a previous competitive award or Grant, and those who have not received other grants outside the ESC and its internal constituent bodies.

Candidates having already received a grant from the ESC or one of its internal constituent bodies (Association, Working Group or Council) will not be eligible to apply.

In addition, although candidates can apply to more than one grant within the ESC or one of its internal constituent bodies, they will not be eligible to receive more than one grant. If selected by more than one entity, they will be asked to make a choice.

Candidates are not asked to have a pre-agreement with a centre before applying (but they can make some proposals and express their preference in a country and/or centre).

The EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme will not select more than two candidates from the same country to ensure optimal geographical spread and will send a maximum of one candidate per centre, and as such reserves the right to propose alternative centres.

Additional selection criteria might apply at the discretion of the EAPCI Committee in charge and/or the EAPCI Executive Committee. The final decision will be made by EAPCI and is indisputable.

3.2 Selection criteria for hosting training centres

Hosting centres must be in one country among the 57 ESC National Cardiac Societies.

Preference will be given to hosting training centres that have active training Grant programmes and fulfill the minimum criteria below (**please note that not all criteria need fulfillment to apply as a hosting training centre**):

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • PCI procedures: | 600/year |
| • TAVI procedures: | 120/year |
| • Mitral valve interventions: | 30/year |
| • Structural heart disease interventions: | 100/year |
| • Number of IVUS procedures: | 100/year |
| • Number of OCT procedures: | 50/year |
| • Number of FFR procedures: | 200/year |

In addition, there should be:

- At least one dedicated Cath lab.
- At least 2 qualified interventional cardiologists in the department.
- Availability of 3D ECHO.
- Minimum of one procedure performed daily.
- Current active Grant programme.
- Staff in charge of the fellow should speak Fluent English and other local language, if any.

The tutor needs to meet the following criteria:

- Has been Principal Investigator (PI) before for at least 2 already completed and published large multi centric international randomized interventional cardiology clinical trials (defined as minimum 10 centres in minimum 4 countries with minimum 12 months follow-up), and;
- Currently acting as PI for a running clinical trial with the same conditions, being in the enrolment phase.
- As much as possible, holding an academic position (full professor or associate professor)

that certifies the commitment of the tutor in training and education.

4. How to apply?

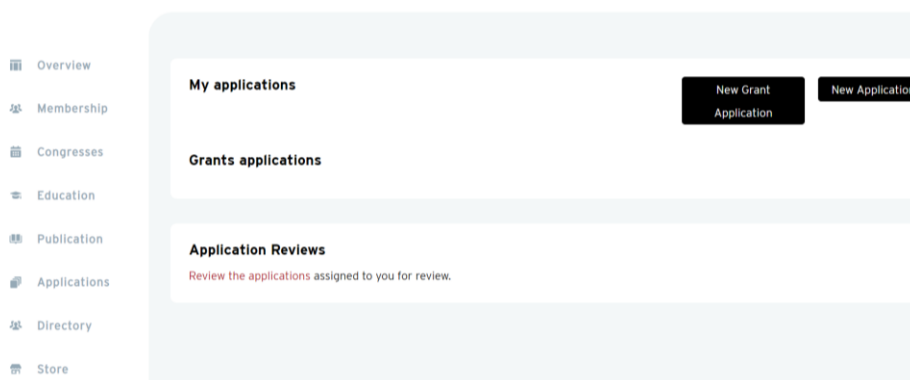
4.1 Hosting Centres

Application process for hosting centre:

- The call for application for centres is performed online in September-October 2023 and will be evaluated by the 2022-2024 EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee. The selected centres will be published online in time for the call for application for candidates and will be offered as guidance for them to select the most appropriate centre in line with their fellowship project. Candidates will still have the possibility to select other centres and to approach them to reach a hosting pre-agreement.

4.2 Candidates

- To access the application online form please log in to your "**My ESC**" account from the website: <https://www.escardio.org/>
- Once you are logged in, go to 'My Applications' and select "New Grant Application":



IMPORTANT:

- The candidate will be required to apply online by completing an **online application form (part A)** and **uploading a CV and a recommendation letter**.
- The candidate having a pre-agreement with a hosting training centre and submitting hosting training center's application (**part B**) together with his/her application is required to have full right and power or have obtained formal authorisation to submit the application on behalf of the referenced hosting training center.

- Candidates applying to be hosted in a training centre already included on the list published on our website will not need to upload part B, as this is already submitted by the centre. These candidates will just need to request the hosting centre to provide them with a pre-agreement confirmation letter, which they will upload online.
- The completed online application form + the upload of a CV in a European format, the recommendation letter and part B form and/or pre-agreement confirmation letter (if applicable) must be submitted no later than **15 January 2024**.
- **Candidates are strongly encouraged to save their documents in PDF before uploading them online.**
- Applications are made exclusively via an online form. Applications by email or paper applications will not be accepted.

5. Tenure/Period of support

- The grant covers a period of 12 months. Grants for shorter periods will not be considered.
- The training period must start after completion of the whole application process (after receiving formal confirmation from the EAPCI) – i. e., between April and September 2024 (with 3 months flexibility if required).

6. Level of support

The grant recipient will receive a sum of € 25,000 to cover his/her living expenses which will be paid directly to him/her – and not to the training centre.

The amount will be paid in three steps, i.e., 45% at the beginning, 45% after reception of the mid-term report to be sent 6 months after the start of the programme and the remaining 10% upon reception of the final report.

If, due to exceptional circumstances, the recipient of the grant decides to discontinue his/her fellowship before its agreed term, he/she must inform formally the EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee without delay. The EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee will then assess the situation based on documented evidence provided by the grant recipient (medical certification, promise of employment, etc.). Said Committee will then determine whether a reimbursement of the grant is required. If the EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee requests a refund, it will uphold the following guidelines:

- If the grant recipient opts to discontinue their fellowship within the first semester, grant recipient will be required to refund the entire amount of the initial 45% payment received at the commencement of the fellowship.
- If the grant recipient chooses to stop their fellowship during the second semester, the initial 45% grant payment will be kept by the grant recipient, but the EAPCI Education and Training Committee will decide whether a partial or complete refund of the second payment (i.e., the 45% provided at Month 6) is required.

Once the hosting training centre has been confirmed by the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme, an agreement will be signed between the Hosting training centre and the grant recipient. The convention/ agreement should specify the status of the grant recipient during the period spent in the hosting training centre.

NOTES ON APPLYING FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS

1. Applications from candidates and hosting training centres received after the closing date (15 January 2024 for candidates and 15 October 2023 for hosting centres) will not be accepted, unless an extension of the deadline has been granted.
2. Candidates are requested to carefully read and make sure they understand the Rules for EAPCI Education & Training Grants Programme. Submission of an application will be taken to imply acceptance of all the conditions. Any application which is not in accordance with these rules will not be considered.
3. Applications will be submitted to the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme for consideration as received by the office; candidates are therefore urged not to submit incomplete forms. Incomplete forms will be rejected.
4. Applications must conform to the pre-defined layout and provide the necessary information within the space(s) provided in the form; only in exceptional cases additional sheets may be accepted (e.g., list of publications), so careful selection of the documentation should be made by the candidate.
5. Part A should be completed by the candidate. Candidates are asked to note that it remains their responsibility to request a recommendation letter from a person of their choice and upload it online. Failure to submit all documents before the closing date will be considered as an incomplete application - as such the entire application will be rejected.
6. The EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme will propose one or more hosting training centre(s) to the candidate, in line with his/her training plans and expectations. Discussions will be held between the candidate, the hosting training centre and the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme for all parties to be comfortable and aligned with the “matching”. Once agreed, the decision is final and indisputable.
7. Grant recipients whose projects require the use of radioactive substances in man should enclose evidence that the necessary approval has been sought/obtained.
8. Scientifically qualified candidates who have not yet obtained their doctorate must have submitted a thesis before taking up a grant.
9. Re-application: A candidate who submits an unsuccessful application is entitled to re-apply in subsequent years. A new application will be judged on an equal basis with other new applications. However, under no circumstances will a candidate awarded an education and training grant by the ESC or one of its Internal Constituent Bodies (Associations including EAPCI, Working Groups or Councils) be considered for an EAPCI grant, whatever the purpose of the period of the education and training grant.

PART B – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Part 1 – Scope of the programme.

Part 2 – Standard regulations.

Part 3 - Special regulations.

Appendix I - Residence eligibility regulations.

PART 1. SCOPE OF THE PROGRAMME

1.1 Legal and financial provisions

- **The Education and Training grant is made under the legal and scientific responsibility of the training host centre.**
- **The Education and Training Grant programme provides financial support of 25,000 Euros per annum to the grant recipient** in connection with the agreement to be arranged with the selected hosting training centre.
- **Grant recipients are urged to discuss the cost of their proposed programme of work with the hosting department** to ensure that the department is in a position:
 - To set up a contract (employment, training, health insurance...) with the recipient **and**
 - To meet any expenditure exceeding this amount.

1.2 Selection of the host training centre

- Grants recipients' allocation in a host training centre will be made following discussions between the grant recipient, the host training centre and the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme.
- Training periods may be held in a suitable university hospital or similar host training centre within a country, which is a country from **ESC National Cardiac Societies**.
- The EAPCI is unable to help with transfer or household removal expenses incurred by grant recipients on taking up a grant.
- Persons benefiting from the recognition of professional qualifications shall have knowledge of languages necessary for practicing the profession in the host Member State (Directive 2005/36/EC of The European Parliament and of The Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications). The EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme will take a special look at the language spoken by the candidate and will try to take this into account when making the individual placement decision. However, it cannot be considered liable if the candidate's language level is deemed as not sufficient by the centre or the hosting country.

- The official language of the EAPCI Education & Training Grants Programme is English and all official documents must be submitted in **English**.

1.3 Subject of training period

The application form for the host training centre has been designed to make it clear that the head of the proposed department is willing to receive candidates and provide the necessary facilities.

PART 2. STANDARD REGULATIONS

2.1 Status of grant recipients

A grant under these regulations will normally be administered through the medium of a convention/agreement for the period of the grant, entered between the grant recipient and the host training centre.

The grant will be paid directly to the grant recipient, and not the host training centre.

2.2 Insurance and tax

- The grant recipient is responsible for the setting up of his own personal and professional insurance and for compliance with taxation rules according to the local fiscal regulations.
- The receiving host training centre is responsible for the setting up of the legal framework of the grant recipient in accordance with the local regulations.
- The receiving host training centre is responsible for ensuring that the grant recipient complies with the immigration requirements and if necessary, with the local work legislation.
- The host training centre will be requested to provide a statement to the EAPCI confirming the compliance of the grant recipient with the above regulations as well as a certificate of presence of the grant recipient in the centre.

2.3 Conditions

2.3.1 Restrictions

- It will be a condition of any grant that grant recipients do not engage in private practice for personal gain unless validated in advance by the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grants Programme under exceptional circumstances.
- The Education and Training grant is intended to be awarded for full-time training in the scope covered by the grant.

2.3.2 Sick leave

- Grant recipients will be subject to the normal conditions of service of the host training centre as far as sick leave is concerned.
- Grant recipients are obliged to have health insurance either provided by the host training centre or sourced by themselves: this should be discussed between the candidate and the host training centre.
- Grant recipients from non-EU countries are requested to have their own health insurance. This will not be covered by the host training centre.

2.3.3 Honorary clinical contracts

- Medically qualified grant recipients who undertake, as part of their Grant programme, work concerned with the care of patients are reminded that they should be in possession of an honorary clinical contract from the appropriate health authority.
- Responsibility for seeking such a contract will lie with the head of the department in which the grant recipient is working, following the usual practice of the local Medical School.

2.3.4 Local regulations

- Grant recipients will be subject to the terms of employment of their host training centre.
- Centres are held responsible for mentioning all the specific requirements for their country and centre in their application form. To comply with the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, the candidate might be required to take a language test. According to this regulation any foreign person should justify he/she has the technical qualification and speaks the language of the hosting training centre and if it is a non-EU citizen, that there is a public interest to recruit. The EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme will take a special look at the language spoken by the candidate and will try to take this into account when making the individual placement decision.
- Note that in most countries, a B2 level in the national language is required.
- All paper works (visa, language certificate...) should be completed within 4 months after accepting the grant otherwise the grant will be allocated to another person.

2.3.5 ESC Privacy and Data Security Policy

The ESC complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679 and the data protection laws in France and takes all reasonable care to prevent any unauthorised access to personal data. Please refer to www.escardio.org/privacy

The information collected for the EAPCI Education and training grant programme is subject to data processing and storage. The recipient of the data is the European Society of Cardiology (through the EAPCI Committee

in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme stated in the EAPCI Education & Training grant programme's rules and regulations) and ESC Staff) as well as the industry sponsor(s).

Personal data will only be used for the EAPCI Education & Training Grant Programme application, management, and selection/grading processes.

In addition, hosting training centre name, grant recipients' names as well as name, first name and country of the supervisor will be published on ESC/EAPCI communication channels (website, newsletters) as well as on the journal published during EuroPCR course and displayed during the relevant sessions (award ceremony, EAPCI General Assembly, EAPCI-PCR Fellows Course at the occasion of EuroPCR course if applicable).

Personal data will be kept by ESC for a duration of 2 years.

In accordance with the chapter 3 of the European Regulation 2016/679 with regards to data protection, data subjects have the right to request from ESC, access to and rectification or erasure of your personal data or restriction of processing concerning your data or to object to processing as well as the right to data portability. For such, please contact (be aware that a proof of identity will be requested during the process via a secured web link):

*Data Privacy, European Society of Cardiology, Les Templiers 2035 Route des Colles, CS 80179 Biot, 06903 SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS CEDEX, France
Or by email to dataprivacy@escardio.org*

Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority, and for information, ESC has appointed a Data Protection Officer that you can reach at dpo@escardio.org

2.4 Change of project or supervisor

Any changes in a grant recipient's training programme or supervisor from those originally approved by the EAPCI will require the EAPCI's prior consent.

2.5 Reports

Grant winners are required to submit 2 reports (in English):

- One interim report after 6 months.
- A final report at the end of the training period on the work undertaken and to inform the EAPCI of their proposed appointment upon conclusion of the training period. Grant winners are encouraged to take this opportunity to put forward any comments they may have on the Education and Training Grant Programme. The report must be sent to the EAPCI@escardio.org and to sallo@escardio.org within one month of completing the training period signed by both, the grant winner, and the hosting training centre.
- These reports will be shared with the 2022-2024 and/or 2024-2026 chairs and members of the EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme, the relevant ESC Staff, the hosting training centre welcoming the candidate during the duration of the EAPCI Fellowship grants programme and the industry sponsor supporting the grant recipient.

2.6 Publications

The results of a grant recipient's project may be published in the usual way at the discretion of the supervisor or head of department, but this is highly recommended that the results are submitted for publication to the European Heart Journal or EuroIntervention Journal. The EAPCI will be acknowledged in any publication from the hosting training centre or the grant recipient dealing with the work carried out during the tenure of an Education and Training Grant by the mention of the following sentence “[Awardee] received funding from the [Association full name] ([Assoc.acronym & Grant name] App000000000)”. **One off-print of each publication should be sent to the EAPCI@escardio.org.**

As much as possible, and if relevant, publications should be submitted to EuroIntervention and/or one abstract should be submitted at the EAPCI official congress (EuroPCR).

2.7 Intellectual property

All copyright in any publications, presentations or educational materials which embody the data, and the results of the training shall be jointly owned by the hosting training centre and the grant recipient.

The grant recipient authorises EAPCI to re-publish any of these publications in the ESC journals.

PART 3. SPECIAL REGULATIONS

3.1 The grant is intended to be awarded for education & training in interventional cardiology. Any other allocation of the grant time allocation will be down the responsibility of the grant recipient (such as securing approval from the centre, Local Ethical Committee approval for research projects...).

3.2 Regulations concerning the control of experiments will be those existing in the hosting training centre. This applies to medical records, radioactivity, use of human materials, genetic manipulations, animal experiments and licenses for appropriate procedures.

Appendix 1

RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR EAPCI EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS

1. These rules will apply to any grant provided by the EAPCI.
2. Candidates must be, at the date of application for an award:
 - a) Citizen or permanent resident from a country from **ESC National Cardiac Societies, and**
 - b) His/her 'country of work/training at the time of application' should be among countries from **ESC National Cardiac Societies.**

Note : For the term "Permanent Resident" please refer to the definition of the European Commission here : https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/documents-formalities/eu-nationals-permanent-residence/index_en.htm

3. For these rules, hosting training country for the 12-months programme should be different from the candidate's country of citizenship or permanent resident from a country from **ESC National Cardiac Societies AND** from his/her 'country of work/training at the time of application'.

Please see the list of the countries from **ESC National Cardiac Societies** here:
<http://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/Member-National-Cardiac-Societies>