

RULES and REGULATIONS

for

**The European Association of
Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions**

(EAPCI)

A branch of the ESC

EDUCATION & TRAINING GRANTS PROGRAMME 2025

EAPCI Education and Training Grants Programme
Updated rules valid from 15 December 2024
Application for period 2025

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 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 58 ESC National Cardiac Societies, **AND**, whose ‘country of work/training at the time of application’ is among the 58 ESC National Cardiac Societies (please refer to the *Appendix 1* at the end of this document for additional information).
**The Belorussian Scientific Society of Cardiology and the Russian Society of Cardiology are temporarily suspended from membership in the ESC.*
- Are qualified cardiologists or currently in the final year of their cardiology training programme.
- Are **under 40 years of age at the day of application deadline** (31 January 2025).
- 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 2025 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. An aspirational goal is to allocate 50% of the grants to women, ensuring that meritocracy and gender equity are balanced to the greatest extent possible.

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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to secure pre-approval from their chosen host center at the time of submitting their application. At a minimum, proof of contact with the selected center is required. If an applicant is selected for a grant without confirmation of a placement at that time, they will have a maximum of one month to secure a host center. **Failure to do so will result in their nomination being considered void, and the grant will be reassigned to another candidate.**

Once the grants have been confirmed and the Committee has finalised the matching process between centers and candidates based on their pre-agreements or stated preferences, candidates are expected to promptly contact their assigned centers and ensure that their fellowship is

confirmed by the time the grants are announced at EuroPCR. Failure to contact their respective center or notify the Committee of any issues preventing confirmation by the time of the EuroPCR announcement may result in the candidate forfeiting the grant.

The EAPCI Committee in charge of the Education and Training Grant Programme will ideally 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 58 ESC National Cardiac Societies.

**The Belorussian Scientific Society of Cardiology and the Russian Society of Cardiology are temporarily suspended from membership in the ESC.*

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.
- 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.
- Particular attention will be given to applications from centers that have previously conducted scientific projects resulting in publications, based on work carried out with fellows who received a grant.

4. How to apply?

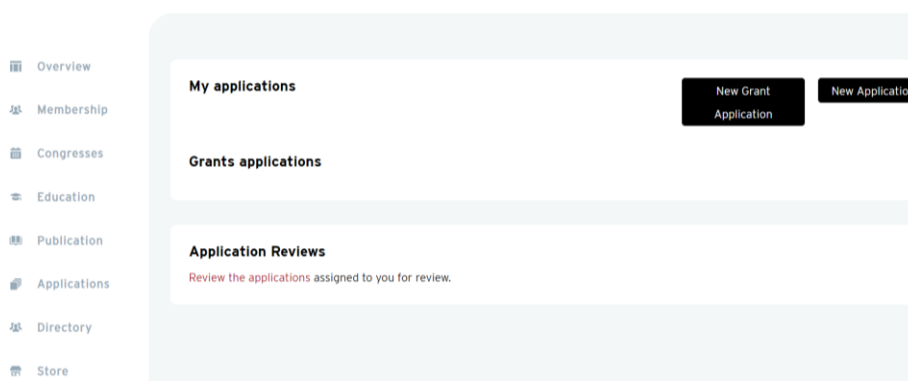
4.1 Hosting Centres

Application process for hosting centre:

- The call for application for centres will be performed online in November & December 2024 and will be evaluated by the 2024-2026 EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee. The selected centres will be published online and will be offered as guidance for them to select the most appropriate centre in line with their fellowship project. As mentioned above, hosting pre-agreement of the applicants is strongly encouraged. 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 which is not in the EAPCI Host Centres list published on the webpage need to submit the host training center's application (**part B**) together with his/her application. The candidate 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 **31 January 2025.**
- **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 31 May 2025 and 30 November 2025.

Candidates from outside the EU may be granted an extension of the deadline to account for the time required to complete the visa application process and to obtain certified translations of their medical degree and certificates of language requirements.

6. Level of support

The grant recipient will receive a sum of € 26,865 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 needs to discontinue his/her fellowship, the EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee will assess the situation based on

documented evidence (medical certification, promise of employment, etc.). They will then determine whether a partial/complete 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, they 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 EAPCI Education and Training Committee will decide regarding a potential partial or complete refund of the second payment (i.e., the 45% provided at Month 6).

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 (31 January 2025 for candidates and 31 December 2024 for hosting centres) will not be accepted, unless an extension of the deadline has been granted by the EAPCI Fellowship Grants Committee.
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 candidate is responsible for engaging with the host center to obtain final approval that aligns with their training objectives and expectations. Discussions will take place between the candidate, the host training center, and the EAPCI Committee overseeing the Education and Training Grants Programme to ensure the best possible match and mutual agreement. Once finalised, the decision is definitive and cannot be challenged

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 26,865 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.
- 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.
- Please note that in most countries, a B2 level proficiency in the national language is required, which candidates must demonstrate through an official language certificate. 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.
- Candidates from outside the EU may be granted an extension of the deadline to account for the time required to complete the visa application process and to obtain certified translations of their medical degree and certificates of language requirements.

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 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.

- A scientific project with potential peer review publication must be considered with the supervisor at the start of the fellowship. The planned project as well as its final report must be sent to the EAPCI Committee fellowship grant committee.

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/PCR London Valves) or ESC Congress.

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>

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