



**EHRA**  
European Heart  
Rhythm Association

**RULES for the**

**EUROPEAN HEART RHYTHM ASSOCIATION (EHRA)**  
(a Branch of the ESC)

**TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**  
**For clinical electrophysiology with emphasis on catheter ablation**



## TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (Ablation)

- Rules valid for the application period from September 2024 – November 2024

---

The EHRA invites you to apply for the EHRA Advanced Training Fellowship Programme.

### Purpose of the EHRA Training Fellowship Programmes

To provide an opportunity for clinical training in the field of Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing in an [ESC member country](#), for medical graduates having completed 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.

The goal of this award is to help young candidates attain clinical competence and acquire high quality experience in Electrophysiology practice which will enable them to contribute to **improving academic standards upon return to their own country.**

### Eligibility

Applicants eligible for the award are those who

- are citizens or permanent residents of an ESC member country (*please refer to the Appendix 1 at the end of this document for additional information*)
- have completed their cardiology training but before obtaining a “permanent”, “senior staff” or “consultant” position
- are preferably less than 40 years of age on the day of the application deadline
- are EHRA members (mandatory)
- have reached the required language level requested by the relevant hosting centre and/or country (B2 level in most countries).



**IMPORTANT:**

- Final validation of the application will be subject to visa approval (when needed).

**NOTE:**

- Applicants who are in doubt about their eligibility are advised to contact the EHRA prior to applying.
- Applicants are advised to read the explanatory notes carefully before applying.

**Selection Criteria**

- **INDIVIDUALS applying for the Advanced Programme (1 year):**

**Target audience:**

For physicians with extensive experience in the fields of cardiology and basic interventional electrophysiology.

**Objectives:**

The fellow will gain advanced theoretical and practical knowledge in the fields of: diagnosis (advanced mapping) and ablation of complex substrates such as: atrial fibrillation, LA re-entry tachycardia, ischemic VT and in difficult anatomic access procedures, such as aortic root, epicardial mapping, and transeptal punctures.

**Application Criteria:**

Basic theoretical and practical experience of:

- Clinical Cardiology
- Diagnostic EP studies
- Catheter ablation of simple arrhythmias: shall have performed at least 50 catheter ablations as first operator
- Fluent English and/or other local language  
*The Fellow will have to check local regulations and agreed training status (hands-on or hands-off) with the centre he/she is doing his/her fellowship.*

All paperwork (visa, language certificate...) should be completed in due time in order to not delay the starting period.



- **TRAINING CENTRES:**

This programme is restricted to [EHRA Recognised Training Centres \(ERTC\) only](#).

ERTC will need to apply specifically.

### HOW TO APPLY?

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

The screenshot displays the 'My ESC' user interface. On the left is a navigation menu with items: Overview, Membership, Congresses, Education, Publication, Applications (highlighted with a red circle containing '1'), Directory, Store, and Declarations of interests. The main content area is titled 'My applications' and features a 'New Grant Application' button with a red circle containing '2'. Below this, there are four application categories: Association Networks Joining Forms (2 Approved), Community Joining Forms (2 Approved 1 Open), Elections (1 Open), and Fellowship Applications (2 Approved). Underneath, the 'Grants applications' section shows Grant Applications (2 Approved 1 In Review). At the bottom, there is a section for 'Application Reviews'.

### IMPORTANT :

- The applicant will be required to apply through the online application form. The online application process is divided into 3 parts:
  - Part A: main application form to be filled in by the applicant
  - Part B (downloadable document on the website): application form to be filled in by the Head of department or supervisor



- Part C (downloadable document on the website): application form to be filled in by the Referee
  - Parts B & C, once filled in, need to be uploaded in the main online application form (Part A) by the applicant.
  - Other documents (CV, publications lists and career intentions) need to be uploaded too for the application to be complete before submission.
  - Applicants are strongly encouraged to save their documents in PDF before uploading them online.
  - Applications must be done via the online form exclusively. Applications by email or paper will not be accepted.
1. Candidates are requested to carefully read and make sure they understand the Rules for EHRA Training Fellowship Programmes. Submission of an application will imply acceptance of all the conditions. Any application which does not comply with these rules will not be considered.
  2. Applications will be submitted for consideration exactly as received by the office. Applicants are therefore urged to not submit incomplete forms and to take the responsibility that they may be rejected.
  3. 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 (which are specified in the online application form) additional documents may be accepted (e.g. list of publications, CV...), so make a careful selection of your documentation.
  4. Part A (the main online application form) and the candidate's name box on Parts B and C should be completed by the applicant. Candidates are asked to note that it remains their responsibility to pass on Parts B and C of the application form to the responsible persons. Failure to return the parts before the application deadline will be considered as an incomplete application and as such the entire application will be rejected.
  5. Individuals and Centres interested in participating in the EHRA Training Fellowship Programme are invited to submit their applications separately. **The Selection**



**Committee will select both - individual candidates and training centres - and will jointly determine the attributions.**

6. Pre-arrangements between Centres and Individuals **will not be taken into account**, unless they conform to the decision taken by the Committee. The decision of the Committee is final and undisputable.
7. If an applicant has ever had any serious illness which might hinder his/her future career, he/she is requested to inform the EHRA. This information may be sent separately and addressed to the Chairman of the Selection Committee. Refer to section "Level of support" regarding financial provision.
8. Applying for a second time: in exceptional circumstances a grant recipient can apply a second time for a grant in the following year. This new application will be evaluated on an equal basis with other new applications.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION 15 NOVEMBER 2024**

### **Tenure**

2 Year Training Fellowship Programmes will be offered for 2025.

The training period must start after completion of the whole application process (after receiving formal confirmation from the ESC/EHRA). If necessary, the length of the training period may be extended, in which case the host institution will bear the costs.

Fellows will have to **start the training programme before March 2026.**



### **Level of support**

Fellows will receive a sum of € 35,000.00 per annum for their living expenses. The amount will be paid separately in three instalments, i.e. € 15,750.00 at the beginning, €15,750.00 after 6 months and €3,500.00 at the end, upon completion of a final report by the fellow.

An agreement will be signed between the host institution and the grant recipient. The agreement should specify the training status of the grant recipient during the period spent in the host institution.

If for any reason a fellow must stop his/her training before completing 80% of the length of the program, the refund of the whole amount of the grant may be requested. In exceptional circumstances the Selection Committee will evaluate the situation and decide whether to apply this rule or not.



## TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

---

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Part 1 - Scope of the Training Fellowship Programme

Part 2 - Standard regulations

Part 3 - Special regulations

Appendix I - Residence eligibility regulations

### **PART 1. SCOPE OF THE EHRA TRAINING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME**

#### **1.1. Legal and financial provisions**

- The EHRA Training Grant is made under the legal and scientific responsibility of the host institution.
- The EHRA Training Grant provides financial support of € 35,000.00 per annum to the candidate in connection with the agreement to be arranged between the candidate and the selected centre (host institution)
  - ✓ Fellows are urged to discuss the associated expenses and cost of their proposed programme of work with the host department so as to ensure that the department is in a position to set up a contract (employment, training...) with the recipient.

#### **1.2. Selection of the training centre**

- Individuals' allocation to training centres will be decided exclusively by the EHRA Selection Committee.
- Training periods may be held in a suitable university hospital or similar institution within a country, which is an ESC member country. The ESC/EHRA is unable to provide assistance 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 ESC member country. The EHRA Selection Committee 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 in case the candidate's language level is deemed not sufficient by the centre or the hosting country.
- The official language of the programme is English and all official documents must be submitted in **English**.

### **1.3. Subject of training period**

- The application form has been designed to make it clear that the head of the proposed department is willing to receive the candidate 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 institution.

### **2.2 Insurance and tax**

- The applicant is responsible for setting up his own personal and professional insurance and for complying with tax rules according to the local fiscal regulations, of the host country.



- The hosting institution is responsible for setting up of the legal framework of the trainee in compliance with the local regulations
- The hosting institution is responsible for ensuring that the candidate complies with the immigration requirements and the local labour legislation.

## **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 training grant is intended to be awarded for full time training in the scope covered by the grant.

### **2.3.2. Sick leave**

- Fellows will be subject to the normal conditions of service of the host institution as far as sick leave is concerned, but the ESC/EHRA should be notified if a grant recipient is likely to be absent due to illness **for more than a month**.
- Fellows must have health insurance either provided by the host institution or sourced by themselves

### **2.3.3. Honorary clinical contracts**

- Medically qualified grant recipients who undertake, as part of their fellowship 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 institution.
- Centres are held responsible for mentioning all the specific requirements for their country and centre in their application form. The candidate should justify he/she has the technical qualification and speaks the language of the host centre. The EHRA Selection Committee 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 for applicants who wish to go to Germany: the B2 level is required to be allocated to a German centre.
- All paperwork (visa, language certificate...) should be completed **within 4 months after accepting the grant otherwise the grant will be allocated to another candidate.**

#### **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 your personal data. Please refer to: <https://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/About/Policies/ESC-Privacy-and-Data-Security-Policy>

#### **2.4. Change of project or supervisor**

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



## 2.5. Duties

- **Publication**

The fellow will be requested to publish one scientific paper in the EP Europace Journal or in any other equivalent peer review journal and/or to submit two abstracts as first author, at the EHRA official congresses (Europace).

**One off-print (or web link) of each publication should be sent to [EHRA@escardio.org](mailto:EHRA@escardio.org)**

- **Certification examination**

Fellows are also required to pass the EHRA Certification exam in EP at the end of the programme.

The registration fee of the on-line exam will be covered.

- **Final report**

Fellows and the host institution are required to fill and submit a short report (in English) in a predefined format before the end of the Training period covered by the grant:

The fellow's final report (one A4 page maximum) submitted at the end of the training period, aims at describing the work undertaken and informing EHRA of the fellow's 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 Training Fellowship Programme. The report must be sent to the EHRA before the end of/within one month of completing the research/training period signed by both, the grant winner and the training centre.

In addition, fellows are required to fill in and submit a short report (in English) in a predefined format between 12 and 18 months following the end of the training period covered by the grant. This report aims at describing their present professional appointment and achievements since completing the training and how their current practice have impacted the EP clinical practice on their region and country of origin.



The forms for both the final and the one-year reports will be available through the EHRA secretary and/or website.

## **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 EHRA, the host institution and the grant recipient.

Acknowledgment of the grant will be stated in all these materials whenever this is possible.

## **PART 3. SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

### **Human subjects**

3.1. Local Ethical Committee approval is required for research that includes clinical trials and/or involves human subjects (whether patients or normal), and appropriate evidence of such approval must be incorporated in the application. EHRA expects all such work to be undertaken in compliance with the highest standards.

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



### Appendix 1

#### RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

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

**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](https://europa.eu/youreurope/citizens/residence/documents-formalities/eu-nationals-permanent-residence/index_en.htm)

3. For the purpose of these rules, the host country for the 12-months programme should be different from the applicant's country of citizenship or permanent resident from an ESC member country **AND** from his/her 'country of work/training at the time of application'.

Please see the list of ESC member country:

<http://www.escardio.org/The-ESC/Member-National-Cardiac-Societies>

\*\*\*\*\*