

CfP-TRED-AWP21-TRED-01

2021 Annual Work Plan

Call for Participation

2021 EUROfusion Researcher Grants

1. Specific objectives of the action

The Consortium Work Plan 2021-2025 for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap in *Horizon Europe* foresees support for Education and Training of a new generation of scientist and engineers. The EUROfusion Researcher Grants programme will encourage excellence and career development of researchers who are already in the programme or attract high quality potential candidates from outside the programme.

The Researcher Grants will be attributed at post-doctoral level or equivalent. They will cover the salaries of the selected candidates and part of the cost of their research activities and missions for a duration of up to 2 years.

It is foreseen to award about 10 grants per year, with the exception of the first call starting in 2021 which aims at awarding 12 grants.

2. Eligibility

The Eligibility Criteria for the EUROfusion Researcher Grant Programme are similar to those of the former EFDA Fusion Researcher Fellowship Programme, and have been elaborated according to the Ad-hoc-Group (AHG) Recommendations endorsed at the former CCE-FU, namely that *“the competition should be as broad as possible, therefore all recently attributed post-docs ... should be allowed to compete for this funding, although the proposals should be channelled through the Heads of Associations.”* Thus, the action is directed exclusively at researchers of all nationalities, during the first years of their careers, namely:¹

- Researchers in possession of a doctoral degree (PhD) who have completed the PhD and defended their thesis in the two and a half years preceding the deadline for proposal submission of the present call;

¹ Due to the fact that the ERG call is about ½ a year later than in previous years, the eligibility criteria – only for this first call – have been expanded by half a year.

- Engineers/technicians, not having a PhD degree, but who are in possession of a master degree in Engineering (or any equivalent university degree in Engineering) with a professional experience of at least 3 and a half years up to 5 and a half years after the master degree.

The candidate must be employed by a Consortium member or one of its Affiliated Entities. In case the researcher/engineer has not yet started her/his contract at the time of the application for the grant, the Consortium member will have to provide a declaration of intent to recruit the researcher/engineer under an employment contract or equivalent contract compatible with the national legislation. He/she must be recruited not later than 31 December 2021.

The candidate shall work on a scientific or technical subject relevant to the Work Plan for the implementation of the Fusion Roadmap.

Details are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

3. Applicable evaluation criteria

“In view of ensuring the excellence of the selected grants and thereby creating a recognised “brand””, the Eligibility Criteria have been elaborated according to the AHG Recommendations endorsed at CCE-FU, namely that “the fellowship should be awarded according to the sole exceptional quality of the candidate and his/her proposal.”

At its 50th meeting on 22-23 March 2012 the former EFDA Steering Committee recommended to introduce as additional selection criteria the mobility of the researchers. At its 5th meeting on 2-3 June 2014 the EUROfusion General Assembly has agreed to continue with the same criteria.

Details are provided in the Guide for Applicants.

4. Timetable of Implementation

Deadline for proposals: 18th February 2021

Awarding of the grants: General Assembly meeting July 2021

Earliest starting date of the Task Agreement: 1 August 2021

Latest starting date of the Task Agreement: 31 December 2021

5. Financial support

The financial support for this action is subject to the signature of the Grant Agreement between the European Commission and the EUROfusion Consortium for the years 2021-2025.

The financial support for the researchers takes the form of a grant covering the directly related costs only. The host organisation must cover any other costs connected to hosting the grantee in its premises and related to the implementation of the project.

The contribution will support the following costs:

1. Salary cost (including fees, superannuation and social charges) -;
2. Training and specific costs related to the successful execution of the research project (e.g. participation in conferences and training courses, purchase of hardware and/or consumables necessary for a successful implementation of the project) ;
3. Missions costs of the researcher;
4. Indirect costs 25% flat rate (not applied to Unit Costs for Secondments)

The level of financial support for the costs for Training and Missions (points 2 and 3 above) will be agreed following evaluation of the proposal by the selection panel. The support could be up to a maximum of 20k€ for training and other costs and up to a maximum of six months of mobility for the full period of the grant.

The duration of the grant supported by this action will be up to 2 years.

The eligible costs are those incurred during the period covered by the Task Agreement to be drafted after a successful selection process.

Costs claimed for reimbursement must comply with the applicable conditions of the Grant Agreement and need to be in line with the Internal Funding Rules of the EUROfusion Consortium.

The Internal Funding Rules will be established after the consolidation of the overall EUROfusion financial plan for Horizon Europe and the signature of the new Consortium Agreement; therefore the reimbursement rates for personnel costs and other costs associated to the grant cannot be confirmed yet.

The indicative rates currently under consideration for this action are:

- ***Personnel cost 70%***
- ***Training costs 40%***
- ***Missions and travels 70%***
- ***Unit costs for secondments longer than 3 months 100%.***

6. Submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted through the EUROfusion Information Management System (IMS) <https://ims.euro-fusion.org/fp9/>, by the General Assembly member not later than **18th February 2021**.

The proposal shall include the documentation as indicated in Section 4 of the Guide for Applicants. The documentation shall be uploaded to the online proposal form in IMS. In addition to the financial summary to be included in the proposal documentation, the financial information shall be entered directly through the online proposal form in IMS: