

## ESRs CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2024

Dear Doctoral and Postdoctoral Researchers,

The EUI establishes a special fund to support doctoral and postdoctoral research projects. Early-stage researchers (ESRs) are invited to submit their applications for this competitive funding.

Please note the following:

- ESRs must have an EUI status as PhD researchers or Max Weber Fellows at the deadline date (10 November 2024) to be eligible to apply.
- All ESRs, including those in their first year at the EUI, may apply.
- Funding requests for collaborations with subjects external to the EUI are admissible.
- Funding allocations are meant to contribute to offsetting a portion of project expenses, and may not necessarily cover 100% of those.
- This EUI fund does not replace the ordinary funding for missions and other research expenses that the academic units provide according to their own budgets and rules.
- Funds allocated under this Call must be spent in 2025 as per the EUI general budgetary rules (see timeline below).
- Any data and publication produced in the frame of a funded project will have to be deposited in the [EUI Research Repository](#).

### FUNDING AND STATISTICS

**Funds allocated to this ESR call** currently amount to at least 68000 EUR of regular funds plus additional funding from the [EUI Widening Europe Programme](#) that may become available. Please note that this amount is indicative, as the Dean of Research advocates for additional funds whenever possible, even at the last minute.

**Statistics from the 2023 call** about the success rate by unit, by type of project (qualitative/quantitative), and by type of application (joint/individual) are available on the [Funding Opportunities intranet page](#). Although the appropriate budget is specific to each project, in recent years the average awarded grant was €2000, with a maximum of €5000.

### APPLICATION

The submission deadline is **10 November 2024**.

ESRs shall submit their application uniquely through the [online application form](#). Applications submitted in other forms will not be accepted. For PhD Researchers, the application will be forwarded to the Dean of Research and to their Head of Department. For Max Weber Fellows, it will be forwarded to the Dean of Research and to the Dean of Postdoctoral Studies.

By decision of the High Council, **to be eligible for additional funding under the EUI Widening Programme**, at least one Principal Investigator must hold the nationality of one of the EUI-targeted Widening Countries and/or be affiliated with an institution based in

one of these countries. Submitting an application that qualifies for Widening funds does not preclude eligibility or affect the assessment for regular funds.

**For joint applications**, the lead Principal Investigator (PI) will submit a single application, specifying the name and department of the co-PI in the online form. The Head of the lead PI's academic unit will then consult the academic unit of the co-PIs for ranking purposes.

**For data-driven projects**, the application must include an email from the Director of the Library indicating whether the requested data are available via the Library, and if the Library can contribute to the cost of accessing the data. To request this letter, please write to the Library Data Portal at: [DPR@eui.eu](mailto:DPR@eui.eu).

**For projects that may require the Ethics Committee clearance** (see [here](#) for more information), applicants can request clearance even after the decision on this funding.

Applicants are encouraged to complete two **CITI online courses**: "[Essentials of Grant Proposal Development](#)" and, for projects involving human subjects and primary data, "[GDPR for Research and Higher Ed](#)" to improve the quality of their applications. While these courses are optional and tailored to the United States and human sciences, they provide valuable introductions to crafting effective applications, and improving clarity and impact. Please note that the EUI is developing its own training modules that will be available in the future.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Each academic unit will rank the proposals submitted by their ESRs, considering the quality of the project, their integration into the unit's activities, and the potential for seeking other funding sources, as well as gender balance and diversity. The ranking will not differentiate projects eligible for Widening funds. Academic units are free to adopt specific ranking criteria. Applicants should refer to their respective unit for further information on specific priorities and ranking frameworks.

The ranked proposals will then be submitted by each academic unit to the Selection Committee, which will select the projects to receive support. Professors cannot participate in the evaluation of a project submitted by an ESR they supervise. The Selection Committee's selection does not alter the academic units' rankings of the applications.

The Selection Committee is composed of:

- The Dean of Research, who chairs the Selection Committee
- The Dean of Graduate Studies
- The Dean of Postdoctoral Studies, if a Max Weber Fellow is applying
- The Director(s) of Studies of the relevant department(s)
- Three peer-designated Representatives of the ESRs (two PhD Researchers and one Max Weber Fellow)
- Any EUI Professor whose expertise is deemed relevant by the Chair.

All applicants will receive short feedback on their application, prepared by the respective academic unit.

## TIMELINE

- 10 November 2024: deadline for application
- End-November 2024: ranking and assessments from academic units
- By 15 December 2024: meeting of the Selection Committee and decision taken and announced to applicants
- As of January 2025: the budget is opened and ESRs can start making commitments to implement project activities

- Mid-November 2025: deadline to make commitments\*
- Early-December 2025: deadline to submit payments and reimbursement requests\*
- Within March 2026 (for funded projects only): deadline for submitting to the ESR's academic unit and [deanofresearch@eui.eu](mailto:deanofresearch@eui.eu), a one-page final written report, also indicating how the funds helped to develop the research project and future developments.

\* Precise dates to be defined according to the EUI financial calendar 2025. If you're your project is selected, please refer to the administrative staff of your unit of affiliation for further information on the financial deadlines.

#### **CALL DOCUMENTATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

All documents related to the call are made available on the [Funding Opportunities intranet page](#), including the final composition of the Selection Committee and a list of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**. Please refer to the [EUI Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Research](#).

If you have any general queries, please write to [deanofresearch@eui.eu](mailto:deanofresearch@eui.eu).

Kindly refer to your academic unit for questions on content and criteria for assessment.