

UEG Research Fellowship 2024

1. Intention of the programme

With this programme, UEG aims to enthuse both young clinical and basic scientists for a career in digestive health, to close a gap in the landscape of research funding opportunities and to increase the interaction between junior researchers and prestigious European principal investigators (PIs). The programme is an excellent opportunity for young talents to take the next step in their scientific career, by carrying out a research project that cannot be developed in their home institution, by building their network and by learning new research skills.

NOTE: The main purpose of this fellowship is to support the development of a basic or clinical research project and not the development of clinical skills.

2. Basic conditions

In 2024, UEG will grant two fellowships worth € 50,000 each. The grants will be paid to the host institutions and will support the salary, insurance and taxes of the fellows (no overhead costs to the hosting institution).

Fellowships must start in the same year in which the recipients are notified and last for 12 months. Applications for shorter projects will not be considered. The participants should get the chance to:

- conduct research under the guidance of a PI
- participate in research meetings
- improve scientific skills (data collection and analysis, scientific writing, statistics, etc.)
- be included among the authors of the manuscript derived from the project in which the fellow is involved. We encourage the candidates to publish at least one manuscript as first authors.

After successful completion of the fellowships, the participants will receive free registration to the subsequent UEG Week 2025 or 2026 depending on the end date of their fellowship. Participants are expected to present the findings of their projects and to participate in UEG activities/sessions organised by the UEG YTG.

Insurance, accommodation, visa, travel arrangements or leave of absence fall within the responsibility of the fellows and the hosting PIs. Furthermore, UEG is not liable for the fellows' actions, activities, health or safety.

3. Eligibility criteria

The grant is open to both basic and clinical researchers, and to both medical and non-medical graduates.

At the time of submission, applicants for the programme must:

- be a myUEG Associate
- be clinical or basic researchers specialised in digestive diseases according to their track record (publications, abstract presentations)
- have completed their PhD no longer than five years ago (add two years per child for main carer) OR
- be in gastroenterology/hepatology/surgery training, or have completed it within the last five years (add two years per child for main carer)
- not hold an academic permanent position

- have significant research experience (have published at least one original paper as first author in a journal being within the first quartile of the ISI rank for the relevant subject area or at least three original papers as co-author in a journal being within the first or second quartile of the ISI rank for the relevant subject area)
NOTE: Conference abstracts will not be considered as original papers.
- be fluent in English
- reside in Europe or the Mediterranean area (countries that are bordering the Mediterranean Sea)
NOTE: Based on the fulfilment of basic criteria, in 2024 at least one of the fellowships will be assigned to the top-ranked candidate from an Inclusiveness Target Country as defined for COST Actions. Final decision remains with the Research Committee.

The grant will be awarded to the same recipient only once.

Requirements for host centres and hosting principal investigators:

- Centres are located in Europe or the Mediterranean area (countries that are bordering the Mediterranean Sea), but
- not in the fellow's current country of residence.
- The fellow has not worked there previously.
- PIs are able to provide research training to a fellow for a period of 12 months and
- willing to provide organisational assistance to the fellow (e.g. support in finding accommodation).

NOTE: We encourage applicants to contact possible hosting PIs.

4. Application and review

Candidates must approach a PI who would host them and submit an application that includes:

- **Project outline** (max. 3 pages):
 - abstract – 250 words
 - background, aims, methodology, relevance
 - reasons for the selection of the hosting PI, and why the fellow cannot work on the project in their home institution
- **Curriculum Vitae** (max. 2 pages):
 - articles published in relevant indexed journals
 - specification of language skills
- **Research environment** (max. 1 page; information provided by PI):
 - how the PI can create an environment in which the fellow can work on a specific project
 - confirmation of willingness to host
 - confirmation to provide space, cover consumables and other research-related cost
- **Motivation letter** (max 1 page):
 - specification of already existing research skills
 - what specific experience is sought and how this would fit into the applicant's career development
 - how the acquired knowledge and skills will be used in the home institute, what challenges does the candidate face in their career/current workplace

- **Agreement with UEG's terms and conditions** (template, signed by hosting PI):
 - confirmation that no overheads are charged and that the fellowship will cover only the fellow's salary, insurance and taxes (no overhead costs to the hosting PI)
- **Letter of support from the head of the home department** (max 1 page):
 - candidate's research experience
 - confirming that the applicant will be allowed to leave for 12 months
- **Optional: Confirmation of child care responsibilities** (template, signed by candidate)

Review

All applications will be reviewed by the Research Committee (RC). The following aspects will be taken into consideration: the scientific merits of the project proposal, the research potential of the candidate, the impact on the fellow's career, the fellow's previous research, their motivation, the suitability of the particular PI, the fellow's country of residence (see eligibility criteria above), and the overall quality of the application.

The final selection will be made by the RC.
RC members applying as hosting PIs will be excluded from the review process.

5. Reporting

The fellows must provide:

- 6 months after the start of the fellowship: Short interim report.
- 1 month after conclusion of the fellowship: Completed feedback form.
- 3 months after conclusion of the fellowship: Scientific report (max. 3 A4 pages) including results and future research plan.
- 1 year after conclusion of the fellowship: Addendum to the final report (brief update, particularly on outputs (publications etc.)).

The hosting PIs must provide:

- 1 month after the end of the fellowship: Completed feedback form.

The fellows are expected to:

- publish the results of their project, acknowledging that it was supported by UEG.
- submit an article to the UEG Journal which will be considered for publication.
- submit an abstract to UEG Week.
- present their project at UEG Week.
- participate in a dedicated session in the Young GI Lounge at UEG Week.
- give recommendations to applicants of the programme.
- write a report for the UEG Journal News or other UEG publications.

6. Timelines

- Application opens October 15, 2023
- Application closes March 1, 2024
- Pre-review & Review RC until: April 5, 2024
- Notification fellow: End of April 2024
- Fellowship: start by December 2024 at the latest