

PROGRAMME: JUAN RODÉS PHD STUDENTSHIP

TARGET AUDIENCE: This competitive PhD student Research Fellowship programme is directed at young graduates who want to achieve a PhD degree in the field of basic, translational or clinical Hepatology. The programme is open to any candidates irrespective of the country of origin who wish to conduct a PhD thesis at a European center. Applicants must hold a M.Sc. or M.D. or equivalent degree of eligibility to access a PhD studentship or be expected to receive this qualification within the next 6 months.

AMOUNT AWARDED – LIVING ALLOWANCE: Base funding of 40,000 EUR per year paid directly to the Hosting Institution. The Living Allowance may also cover part of the research expenses, depending on the salary determined by the Hosting Institution, and detailed in the fellowship application.

The Living Allowance may also cover part of the tuition fees, consumables and travel costs providing that there is sufficient funding left. Any unused funds must be returned to EASL by the Hosting Institution at the end of the PhD Studentship programme.

The Living Allowance is calculated based on the [country-specific correction coefficient](#), as determined by the European Union on an annual basis. The Hosting Institution may have to pay a top-up to the awarded fellows from another budget source to complement this contribution.

ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES TO THE FELLOW:

- (a) Mobility allowance, 500 EUR per month.
- (b) Family allowance, 500 EUR per month.

A family allowance will be paid in case the supported researcher has family obligations, in this context, family is defined as persons linked to the researcher (i) by marriage or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognized by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship has been formalized or (iii) as dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher.

Both the Mobility and Family Allowance are paid directly to the fellow.

PERIOD: 3 years full-time (no extension possible, extendable in case of parental leave)

HOSTING INSTITUTION: Applicants must perform research work for a PhD thesis at an institution different from the one where the fellow received his/her undergraduate training and located in a different European country.

The research supervisor(s) (primary and also secondary) in the Hosting Institution must provide relevant and constant scientific guidance for the duration of the fellowship.

The Hosting Institution must appoint the recipient of the PhD scholarship under an employment contract to be finalized before the effective start of the fellowship in the Hosting Institution. The employment contract should include social security and health coverage for the duration of the fellowship. A copy of the contract must be

provided to the EASL Office. EASL reserves the right to ask for a financial and contractual status of the fellow to the Hosting Institution throughout the duration of the fellowship programme.

CONDITIONS

- Candidates must be active EASL members or have applied for membership at the time of the application;
- Applicants must not hold a permanent position;
- Applicants must hold a M.Sc. or M.D. or equivalent degree of eligibility to access a PhD studentship or be expected to receive this within the next 6 months;
- The Hosting Institution must be in Europe;
- The Hosting Institution must be different from the Home Institution and located in a different European country;
- Once the PhD fellowship is awarded, the Hosting Institution must offer a structured PhD training programme;
- No more than 1 application per home institution will be considered during the period of 2 years following the grant award.
- The research supervisor(s) in the hosting institution must be EASL member(s) but must not be member(s) of the EASL Governing Board;
- No restriction on the applicant's nationality;
- Age limit for applicants is 35 years, with time allowed for parental leave in line with EU standards: 1.5 years per child for mothers and respective time taken off for fathers).

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

- Applications should be submitted online in English at www.easl.eu from 30 September to 15 December.
- The competitive admission process is held in various stages:
 - Applications are reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee (2 members of the EASL Scientific Committee plus 2 external experts nominated by the EASL Scientific Committee)
 - Reviewers are requested to provide detailed written feedback on the application based on:
 - The Candidate profile (25%)
 - The Project (50%)
 - The Hosting Institution (25%)
 - Final selection is made by the EASL Scientific Committee.
- Applicants are notified on the selection outcome by 28 February by email.
- In order to process applications, EASL will need to process the applicant's personal data as provided in the application dossier. The applicant gives his/her consent to such control and processing of his/her personal data. EASL will handle the applicant's personal data in accordance with all applicable legislation for the purpose of reviewing the candidate's suitability for the fellowship.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE

- A detailed research proposal identifying an important research question related to the liver with a clear plan to achieve the aims (max. 4 pages).
- A detailed CV (max. 2 pages)
- 2 reference letters (including one from the candidate's senior mentor at the Home Institution and the PhD supervisor at the Hosting Institution)
- An official letter signed by the candidate's supervisor at the hosting institution including the following:
 - (1) A statement detailing how much of the design and research work will be done by the candidate;
 - (2) A statement confirming that the object of the research programme is unpublished (as defined by not having appeared on PubMed or accepted for publication) by the closing date for award submissions;
 - (3) A confirmation that the Hosting Institution will appoint the candidate under a PhD fellowship scheme, if the fellowship is granted;
 - (4) A confirmation that the candidate is, or has applied to become a member of the EASL.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- Successful applicants are requested to attend the EASL International Liver Congress[™] during which the winners are announced.
- Successful applicants are requested to submit a photo and short project summary to be posted on the EASL website, social media and newsletter.
- Successful applicants who were expected to receive their M.Sc. or M.D at the time of the application must provide a copy of their degree to the EASL Office.
- The fellowship should begin at the latest by the end of the year of the awarded grant.
- Submission of research progress and financial accounting reports for review by EASL are required **every year and upon completion** of the PhD to justify any failure to meet proposed goals and monitor the fellow's progress. The reports shall be signed by the PhD research supervisor at the Hosting Institution.
- Successful applicants shall be active Members for the full duration of the programme and are required to provide a testimonial and feedback on the fellowship experience.
- Upon completion of the project, the EASL Governing Board will reserve the right to ask the fellowship recipient to present the results of the research produced in the format/session it deems most appropriate during the International Liver Congress[™].
- In the event that the fellowship recipient is unable to complete the research or wishes to discontinue the research before its completion, the fellow will be required to return all unexpended funds within 90 days of notification and any remaining fellowship will be cancelled.
- Any presentation or publication of the data should mention that the work was supported by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL).