

ERS Long-Term Research Fellowships 2020

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1. Introduction

- a. ERS Long-Term Research Fellowship (LTRF) programmes aim to:
 - Promote science, research and training techniques in the respiratory field.
 - Stimulate fellowship recipients' career development.
 - Foster knowledge and collaboration between institutions in different countries by sponsoring mobility.
- b. ERS funds and co-funds fellowship programmes to support scientists, investigators, clinicians and allied healthcare professionals in the early stage of their career.
- c. ERS Long-Term Research Fellowships (LTRF) are intended to advance and to develop applicant's skills in basic, clinical or translational research. The research project may involve basic experimental studies, clinical investigations, epidemiology, applied health service research or any other research area relevant to respiratory medicine. Applicants are encouraged to include a training component within their research project.
- d. ERS fellowships are not granted for undergraduate studies, workshops, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses or for visiting institutions. Similarly, ERS fellowships are not for clinical and educational training purposes (clinical diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventional procedures, treatment, etc.).
- e. ERS long-Term Research Fellowships are from 6 months to 12 months. Exceptions are made for candidates going to one of the DZL centres in Germany who can apply for a fellowship between 12 and 24 months.
- f. Applicants are awarded based on scientific merit, but ERS also strives to maintain a good gender balance, geographical spread in the profile of the selected applicants, and diversity within the respiratory fields of the selected research projects.
- g. No distinction will be made between candidates on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs.

2. Eligibility requirements

2.1 Academic qualifications

- a. Candidates should be actively engaged or must have experience in the respiratory field.
- b. Applicants must be postgraduates holding a university degree in any field related to respiratory medicine (MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student). Applicants should be graduated with an MD, MSc or equivalent at the time of application.
- c. Postgraduate scientists such as immunologists, biologists, geneticists, pharmacologists, biophysicists, chemists, etc. involved in respiratory science, are entitled to apply for the ERS Long-Term Fellowships. At a minimum, applicants should hold an MD or MSc at the time of application.
- d. Qualified healthcare professionals (non-MD) working in respiratory health/medicine (nurses, physiotherapists, respiratory function technologists, allied respiratory professionals, etc.) are entitled to apply for an ERS Long-Term Fellowship. At a minimum, applicants should hold an MSc or equivalent at the time of application.
- e. Candidates should have adequate fluency in the language spoken at the host institution.

2.2 Age & Career

There is no age limit and applications from researchers having undertaken a career break (e.g. parental leave, period working outside research, unemployment etc.) are encouraged.

2.3 ERS membership

ERS membership is required when applying for an ERS Long-Term Research Fellowship.

- a. Candidates must be ERS members.

- b. Candidates with a national or regional society membership can obtain a joint membership with ERS through their respective national or regional society if the ERS has a membership agreement with this society. To proceed candidates should contact their national or regional society who will do the necessary and coordinate the joint affiliation with the ERS directly.
- c. The list of societies the ERS has an agreement with can be found on the ERS website: <https://www.ersnet.org/the-society/membership/ers-partnerships-with-national-societies>
- d. Candidates with no membership and no possibility of applying for a joint membership must subscribe to an ERS membership online. Please go online on MyERS <https://my.ersnet.org/> for further information.

2.4 Fellowship mobility

- a. ERS fellowships promote research in Europe and internationally. All nationalities, European and non European based candidates are allowed to submit a project proposal.
- b. Mobility is crucial as ERS fellowships promote knowledge sharing between countries, therefore exchanges between two institutions within the same country are not allowed.
- c. Applicants who, at the time of the deadline, have been in their host institution for more than 6 months are not eligible.
- d. Applicants already at the host institution for less than 6 months and applying for the same host institution (extension, continuation) will be considered, if the fellowship is intended to support exchange of knowledge (mobility component).
- e. Please refer to *Table 1* regarding mandatory or optional returns to the Home institution. Return plans should be included in the project description accordingly.

2.5 Home institution

- a. The home supervisor refers to the applicant's current supervisor at the centre where she/he is currently based. However, it is also possible for the applicant to put forward one of her/his past supervisors (e.g. PhD supervisor, etc) provided that the person can act as a referee and comment on the candidate's work, in relation to the proposed research project.
- b. Candidates with a clear formal connection/link to their home institution will be prioritised.
- c. It is up to applicant to identify the most relevant person for this application and to contact them.

2.6 Requirements for the home institution and supervisor

The home supervisor is required to read, complete and sign the Home Release Form Acceptance (form available on ERS online application platform). The information in the Home Release Form must match the information included in the online application.

2.7 Host institution

- a. The host supervisor refers to the individual that will employ, supervise and train the fellow throughout the fellowship. The host centre and host supervisor will be the main contact/reference and will have the overall responsibility to ensure compliance and the smooth running of the whole fellowship.
- b. It is crucial to select a host supervisor based on his/her competences, knowledge and expertise linked to the area of the project proposal. The host institution's facilities, machinery, equipment and resources should be available for the applicant to carry out the research.
- c. The choice of host centre is an important criterion that will be assessed by ERS experts during the selection process, application without appropriate justification will not be considered.
- d. It is up to the applicant to identify the most relevant institution and supervisor for the application. Applicants must contact potential Hosts on their own time and ERS will not provide any assistance in the search of a host centre.

2.8 Requirements for the host institution and supervisor

- a. Several candidates may apply to the same Host institution, however no more than one candidate within the same Host institution will be selected.

- b. The host supervisor is required to read, complete and sign the Host Acceptance Form (form available on ERS online application platform). The information in the Host Acceptance Form must match the information included in the online application.
- c. The host supervisor is required to provide the applicant with his/her relevant publications related to the project proposal. These publications will be included in the online application.
- d. The host institution should provide administrative support for all practicalities before, during and at the beginning of the fellowship (housing, safety induction, etc.).
- e. The Host supervisor should provide scientific support during the fellowship (regular meetings, evaluations, mid-term report to ERS) and at the end of the fellowship.

2.9 Schedule and duration

Start date

- a. ERS will notify successful candidates in May 2020. Fellowships can start from August 2020. The last date for starting a fellowship must be early June 2021.
- b. Between the notification date and the start of the fellowship, successful candidates should complete travel, visa, passport, housing formalities, insurances, etc. To achieve this, they should engage with their host and home institutions and related authorities ahead of time.

Duration

- c. ERS Long-Term Research Fellowships' duration is between 6 and 12 months maximum*.
The research project is to be carried out on a full-time basis (100%) and cannot be split nor reduced. In principle, the fellowship is carried out on a full-time basis on the Long-Term Research fellowship research project. Should candidates be potentially interested in working part-time for family or personal reasons, this will need to be requested and agreed with the host centre(s) and ERS. If approved, all the allowances will be calculated pro-rata (30-day month). Kindly note that it may not always be feasible to have such arrangements and applicants must ensure that by working part-time they will be eligible for a visa for the duration of their fellowship in the selected Host country.

* Candidates going to one of the DZL centres in Germany can apply for a fellowship between 12 and 24 months.

2.10 Previous ERS fellowship(s)

- a. Applicants who have already been awarded an ERS Long-Term Fellowship, a Respire 1 or 2, 3 Fellowship, or two ERS Short-Term Fellowships in the past, are not eligible.
- b. Applicants having received only once an ERS Short-Term Fellowship in the past are eligible to apply for the ERS Long-Term Fellowship if they have provided the ERS with the requested follow-up reports at the end of their previous fellowship.
- c. Applicants cannot submit the same research project more than once. Should applicants wish to re-apply for a second Fellowship, they must demonstrate past results and provide a detailed description on how they plan on continuing their research. Applicants must provide a justification to how the additional Fellowships is necessary to their research.

2.11 Extension of a previous project supported by other funds

- a. Applications for the extension of a previous project supported from other sources will be considered in competition as any other applications on the basis of scientific merit.
- b. Applicants should inform the ERS about the success or challenges/failure of the earlier project. A description of the new added value in terms of skills, techniques, results should be included, as well as a clear statement of the expected new benefits.

2.12 Unexpected events and issues

- a. The implementation of the project should be carried out as described in the proposal. Any change should be notified to ERS prior to implementation. This includes the start date and end date of the fellowship. The ERS should be notified by email at the earliest when a change is foreseen, for approval.

- b. Any event or circumstance which might affect the implementation of the fellowship or are likely to have an effect on the performance of the fellowship need to be notified to the ERS at the earliest.
- c. Applicants who wish to terminate their Fellowship prematurely should notify ERS immediately. Necessary steps will be taken to receive confirmation from the Host. The reimbursement of the unused Fellowship grant or reduction of the amount still due by ERS will be managed by the ERS office. An end-of-project report will be due (see 10.1).

3. Fellowship programmes

ERS office will evaluate applicants' eligibility in terms of academic requirements, scope of project proposal and mobility. Candidates are categorised under ERS programmes (Table 1) or joint fellowship schemes (Chapter 11, Table 4) that have been established between ERS, national Respiratory Societies or research organisations. It is mandatory for candidates to comply with at least one of the mobility requirements in Table 1. For further details concerning the joint fellowships schemes, refer to the Chapter 11.

ERS Fellowship programmes	Mobility requirement	Eligibility requirements
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Europe to Europe - From overseas to Europe <i>No mandatory return Home</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Candidates should be scientists, physicians or qualified allied health professional (non-MD) with MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student related to the respiratory field - Project duration 6 to 12 months - Mandatory active ERS membership
International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Europe to overseas <i>Mandatory return Home</i>	
Scientifically Developing Countries (SDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Europe or overseas (country with a scientific respiratory gap and or low income) to Europe (EU/EEA) <i>Mandatory return Home</i>	

Table 1

Europe is defined according to the [World Health Organization](#) definition.

3.1 Standard

- a. Candidates should be nationals or residents in a country in Europe, going to another country in Europe or should be based overseas and going to Europe.

3.2 International

- a. Candidates should be nationals or residents in a country in Europe and going overseas.
- b. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.

3.3 Scientifically Developing Countries

- a. Applicants should be based in a scientifically developing country (source [World Bank](#)) and going to Europe, or should be based in a country in Europe with a scientific gap in the respiratory field going to another country in Europe.
- b. This programme is for applicants with no or little opportunity to get education or training in the respiratory field in their home country and with respiratory research gaps and needs, which can be considered as developing from a scientific perspective.
- c. Applicants have to explain the respiratory gaps and needs in the home country/institution and why it is essential to go to Europe. Data as well as other key documents (e.g. policy papers, etc) should support the gap statement.

- d. Candidates should explain how the acquired skills/experience will benefit their home country/institution and how they propose to share/disseminate the knowledge gained upon return.
- e. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and to implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.

4. Online application

4.1 Online platform completion

- a. The online application must be completed, and all supporting documents must be uploaded via the ERS online application platform. We advise applicants to prepare them in advance before the deadline.
- b. The deadline to submit your application is the 13th January 2020. There will be no extension. Once your application is submitted, applicants have a read-only access and cannot make any further change. ERS office will not accept requests to modify or update your application once submitted. Applications with missing files or documents that do not respect the set limitations will not be processed for selection or will be cut to fit the set requirements.
- c. An automated transcript will be issued from the candidates' online application submission and the reviewers will base their evaluation on the provided information.
- d. The required supporting documents must be uploaded via the online application platform and submitted along with the completed online application form.

4.2. Project description

- a. Required format:
 - 5 pages maximum (including references, charts, diagrams, etc.)
 - Font size 12pts Times New Roman or Arial

If the document exceeds the given limitations, only the first 5 pages will be submitted.

- b. The five pages should detail the project aim, objectives, hypothesis, methods, and reasons for selecting the host institution/supervisor. There should be a clear and realistic work plan with a scope achievable within the set timeframe. The rationale for the project at the host institution should be explained, with evidence of facilities and resources available at the host. The value of the project for career development and for the home institution (where applicable) should be stated, as well as how the proposal adds value to respiratory research. The project should demonstrate the needs/gaps in respiratory science/research/medicine at their home institution and outline how they intend to address them. Plans for transferring knowledge, as well as for continuing research at the home institution should be included. The project description should be prepared by the applicant with the contribution and approval of the host supervisors.

4.3 Area of research

Candidates must indicate the main areas of the research project by selecting 1 to 3 keywords within the below table. The selection of keywords is crucial to the reviewing process of the submitted application. Applications will be sorted and categorized into Groups according to the area of the proposed research project. Reviewers will be allocated and matched to the Groups, based on their expertise and the main area of the Group.

Keywords	
Acute Lung Injury	Lung cancer
Applied health service research	Lung transplantation
Asthma	M-health/e-health
Biomarkers	Microbiology
Bronchiectasis	Molecular biology
Bronchoscopy	Occupational medicine/lung diseases
Cell biology	Oncology

COPD	Paediatrics
Cough	Pharmacology
Cystic fibrosis	Physical activity
Environmental medicine/lung diseases	Pulmonary Embolism
Epidemiology	Pulmonary hypertension
Epigenetics	Pulmonary Rehabilitation
Epithelial cell	Sleep disorders
Exercise Test	Smoking
Fibrosis	Spirometry
Genetics	Surgery
Immunology	Thoracic ultrasound / EBUS
Infection	Thoracoscopy
Intensive care	Tuberculosis
Interstitial lung disease	Ventilation
Long term ventilation	

Table 2

4.4 Home & Host Supervisors' files

- Templates are available to download on the online application platform. Both Home and Host supervisors must complete and sign their respective forms, the information in both forms must accurately match the information included in the online application concerning the Home and Host.
- For candidates to be considered eligible, the Home and Host supervisor must accept all terms and conditions mentioned in the forms.

4.5 Applicant's personal files*

- A scanned copy of the candidate's highest degree (PhD, MD, MSc, etc.) in English or with an official translation.
- A scanned copy of the applicant's ID card or passport.
- For children under 18 years of age under the applicant's responsibility, the applicant must upload a scanned copy of child/children's birth certificate(s) or family record book in English or with an official translation.
- If the applicant will be receiving a salary from either his Home or Host institution during the period of the Fellowship, the applicant must upload a salary confirmation letter (from either Home or Host, depending which institution will be providing the salary). The letter must be written on the institution's letterhead, with institution's stamp stating the exact NET amount the candidate will receive in EURO per month.

**Please note that these documents are kept strictly confidential within the European Respiratory Society and will not be shared with reviewers. They are used exclusively to determine the applicant's eligibility for the programme and to assess the fellowship grant cost calculation.*

4.6 Ethics, compliance and integrity

ERS strongly suggest that applicants and their host institution start all necessary requests for ethical permission/any permission required by the regulatory body/bodies (licence to practice, local ethic committees) before the start of the fellowship. The host and the applicant should target to receive the formal permission for the start date of the fellowship. Failure to do this has severely impacted recent funding projects and the ERS will not accept any delay on the project caused by this matter.

- Applicants will have to provide detailed information regarding their ethical permission application and any ethical considerations for their research proposal.

4.7 Use of animals in research

- a. ERS promotes research with the use of alternatives and supports 3Rs guiding principles for ethical use of animal testing (replacement, reduction and refinement).
- b. Applicants should integrate a 3Rs strategy and a plan, and demonstrate the use of replacement, reduction and refinement techniques in their research proposal involving animals, where applicable.
- c. Further information and definitions are available on the following websites.:
 - ARRIVE Guidelines www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines
 - 3Rs approach <http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/how/the-three-Rs>
 - 3Rs approach <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs>

5. Selection process

- a. ERS research fellowship programmes are under the responsibility of the ERS Science Council, which is under the accountability of the ERS Executive Committee. The latter is responsible for the final endorsement following recommendations made by the Science Council. In order to keep a high standard of applications and quality of the proposed research projects, ERS is strictly enforcing these management rules.
- b. Fellowships are awarded based on scientific merit. To achieve this, selection is made by two distinct groups of experts:
 1. A peer-review process with in-depth evaluations of the applications and supported documents, with scoring and shortlisting by ERS College of Experts members.
 2. An interview process with shortlisted applicants by the ERS Fellowships & Awards Working Group and Fellowships and Awards Director. Final selection will be passed on to ERS Science Council for validation. The final endorsement will be made by ERS Executive Committee.
- c. The College of Experts' task and responsibility are to assess the research project and supporting documents based on criteria provided below:
 - Research Project 50%
Relevance of topic to respiratory research; Potential impact (e.g. patient related outcomes, translational potential, policy-making); Novelty & innovation potential; Adequacy of approach, methodology and work plan; Feasibility and quality of the design, including back up-plan; Ethical processes; Dissemination & outreach plan.
 - Quality and potential of candidate 40%
Quality of CV; Scientific record (publications, grants, talks); Overall potential to carry out the project successfully; Quality and feasibility of Career Development Plan; Potential of fellowship and research project to enhance and advance the fellow's research skills 40%
 - Research Environment 10%
Scientific/technical competence and expertise of host centre, in relation to specific candidate and research project; Potential of fellowship to lead to new international collaborations; Opportunity for suitable interactions with co-workers
- d. The College of Experts grade each criterion as following:

10	Excellent, should be automatically funded
9	Very good, should be funded with highest priority
8	Very good, should be funded with priority
7	Good, should be funded with priority
6	Good, should be funded
5	Good, could be funded with lesser priority. Put on reserve list
4	Average, put on the reserve list
3	Average, probably not funded
2	Poor, probably not funded

1	Poor, should not be funded
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The median is calculated on the score provided by each expert. The initial ranking order is established based on the candidates' average grade. The College of Experts can view the ranking list and the other reviewers scoring (anonymously). They have the opportunity to provide comments and justify why they think one (or several) candidate(s) should be ranked higher or lower.

Based on the ranking list and comments of the College of Experts, the Fellowships & Awards Director issues a short-list of candidates to be interviewed. Each candidate is allocated to 2 experts from the Fellowship Working Group who perform the interviews and the scoring is based on the same criteria used by the College of Experts (see point 5.c). The final ranking list is submitted to ERS leadership for endorsement.

- e. Assessments are strictly confidential and will not be shared outside of ERS.
- f. Appeals are not considered unless formal mistakes have been made by the ERS.

6. Fellowship grant calculation

6.1 Calculation

ERS long-term fellowships include a living stipend, a child allowance and a travel grant. The travel grant is paid one month before the start date of the scheduled fellowship. The fellowship payments are issued in two instalments, the first half is paid once the applicant has arrived at the Host institution. ERS office requests a confirmation of arrival to transfer the first half of the payment. The second instalment is transferred once ERS office has received the mid-term report from both the candidate and the Host. Fellowship instalments are in EURO, no matter of the location of the home and host countries.

The living stipend

- a. The living stipend cover costs related to food, accommodation, transportation, etc in the host country. The monthly rate varies per host country (see subsistence rate table below).
- b. The living stipend is not intended for covering costs in the home country during the fellowship. Fellowship recipients are responsible for making separate arrangements to manage expenses in their home country during their fellowship abroad (rent, mortgage, taxes, insurances, etc.).

Child allowance

- a. Child allowance is provided per child under the age of 18 years old, based on birth certificate provided in the application form. The child allowance varies per host country (see subsistence rate table below).

Travel grant

- a. A one-off travel lump sum grant is given to each fellowship recipient for covering travel costs between the home and host institutions:
 - 200€ are granted for distances between host and home institutions below 5'000km.
 - 700€ are granted for distances over 5'000km.
 - For applicants coming from scientifically developing countries to Europe, the one-off lump sum is of 400€ for distances between host and home institutions below 5'000 km. For distances over 5'000 km the lump sum is of 1'200€.
- a. There is no travel support for family members (wife, husband, partner, children, etc.).
- b. When the fellowship recipient is already at the host institution or in the host country, travel support is not granted.

6.2 Subsistence and child allowance rates

The subsistence and child allowance rates depend on the cost of living in the host country. These rates are subject to change every year. The figures here below show the 2020 subsistence and child allowance rates.

Host country	Subsistence monthly rate (EURO)	Child allowance (EURO)
Australia	3400	380
Austria	2800	390
Belgium	3200	360
Canada	2900	380
Czech Republic	2000	200
Denmark	3400	385
Finland	2800	348
France	2800	363
Germany	2800	380
Greece	2380	353
Hungary	2000	300
Ireland	3000	375
Italy	2750	380
Luxembourg	3400	360
Netherlands	2850	370
Norway	3400	385
Spain	2500	360
Sweden	3200	380
Switzerland	4300	490
United Kingdom	3000	380
United States of America	3000	400

Table 3

7. Home and Host salary

- Candidates that continue to receive in part or in totality a monthly salary from their home or host institution during the ERS fellowship, must report the figure of the exact monthly NET amount (salary after deductions, such as income taxes and social security, etc.) received in EURO in the online application.

In this case, candidates will also be requested to provide an official letter from either the home or host institution (depending on who will be providing the salary) (see 4.5.d for details).

- The salary will be deducted from the ERS fellowship grant. The Fellowship may not be granted at all if the financial support by the home or host institute is equal or higher than the ERS fellowship living/subsistence stipend.
- Exceptions are granted for financial support provided by the home/host institution or other funding source for covering obligatory health and safety insurances, legal and social security insurances, pension schemes and child support. In this case, the ERS fellowships will be paid in full, no deductions.
- Successful applicants are encouraged to engage in teaching, discussion and similar activities at the institution they visit. They may not, however, engage in paid or salaried activities, without prior agreement from the ERS office.

8. Insurances, taxes and visa

- Fellowship recipients are neither agents nor employees of ERS. ERS accepts no liability for fellowship recipient's wrongdoing actions or activities in respect to health or safety, insurances, and taxes.
- It is the fellowship recipient and the home/host supervisor's responsibility to find a mutual agreement on aspects cited within the Application Guidelines on the fellowship recipient's status and other national requirements for the duration of the fellowship at the host institution.

- c. ERS can provide a Visa letter too help the visa application process, nevertheless, it is the fellowship recipient's responsibility to plan the application ahead of time. We encourage applicants to apply for the visa immediately once received confirmation of the fellowship. Visa applications can take time and we suggest applicants to take it into consideration when scheduling their initial start date.
- d. The fellowship recipient is fully responsible to ensure that he/she and the accompanying family members staying at the host country for the duration of the fellowship are covered with social security, medical, accident schemes and other necessary schemes where applicable, and are provided with the adequate level of protection. As a suggestion, the fellowship recipient could look at the coverage provided for local researchers holding a similar position.
- e. ERS is a not-for-profit organisation. ERS fellowships have no tax privileges. It is the responsibility of the fellowship recipient to pay any tax which may be levied upon him/her by the appropriate national authority.

9. Other fellowships and funding schemes

- a. ERS Fellowships cannot run concurrently with other fellowships or similar funding schemes received during the same period. ERS will not grant a Fellowship to an applicant who has been selected for another fellowship or funding scheme during the same period as the proposed project proposal submitted to ERS.
- b. Applicants may apply for funding from external sources; however, this funding should be used solely to help support financial and logistical requirements related to the project proposal (purchase of equipment, Ethics Committee related fees etc.). This information must be declared in the online application, you will be required to include which organisation you applied to, the total amount of funding in EURO received and how/for what will it be used to cover in your Research Project. Any change during the course of the fellowship has to be reported to ERS immediately.

10. Reporting, Publications & Post-fellowship

10.1 Fellowship reporting

- a. Both the fellowship recipient and the host supervisor are required to submit a mid-term review report and a completed questionnaire 6 months after the start of the fellowship in order to assess the project's progress. In case of significant deviation from the initial application that has not been notified to ERS, ERS reserves to withhold further payments.
- b. Within 3 months after the end of the fellowship, both the fellowship recipient and the host supervisor are required to submit an end-of-project report and a completed questionnaire.

10.2 Publications

- c. Publications of project results in the official journals of the society, in particular in the European Respiratory Journal, are encouraged. Publication(s) of the project's results are expected. Both the fellowship recipient and the host supervisor should acknowledge ERS support in any publication or outcome related to the fellowship. The ERS Fellowships should be acknowledged by including the following sentence in the acknowledgement section of the publication in the following way "*We acknowledge the support of the European Respiratory Society Fellowship Long-Term Research Fellowship 2020*". Should the fellowship be cofounded with another organisation, the acknowledgement should have ERS and the cofounding partner.

Any infringement of the Application Guidelines 2020 conditions, rules and regulations can result in the withdrawal of an application from the selection process or the cancellation of a fellowship already granted.

11. Joint Fellowship schemes

ERS has established joint fellowship agreements with national respiratory societies and research organisations. In order to be considered for one of the below programmes, candidates must comply with the general set requirements in terms of research scope, mobility and academic level. Candidates must include (via the online application) if they have a membership with one of our co-funding national society partners. ERS will conduct the eligibility check and will assess which candidates are suitable for which programmes.

N.B: Candidates applications can be submitted to the national societies or organisations mentioned here below for their review.

Fellowship programme	Research Area of project proposal	Mobility requirements	Profile and/or required degree
ERS/ALAT Joint Fellowship	Scientific, medical, qualified healthcare professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Latin America to Europe - From Europe or overseas going to Latin America Mandatory return Home	MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student or equivalent
ERS/DZL Joint Fellowship	Scientific, medical, qualified healthcare professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Europe (except DE) to one of the Hosts listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borstel/Lübeck/Kiel/Grosshansdorf • Giessen/Marburg/Bad Nauheim • München (Munich) • Hannover • Heidelberg No mandatory return Home	MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student or equivalent
ERS/SEPAR Joint Fellowship	Scientific, medical, qualified healthcare professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Spain to Europe - From Europe or overseas to Spain No mandatory return Home	MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student or equivalent
ERS/SPLF Joint Fellowship	Scientific, medical, qualified healthcare professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From France to Europe - From Europe to France Mandatory return Home	MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student or equivalent
ERS/EMBO joint fellowship	Molecular biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Going to Europe or overseas, either Home or Host institution must be an EMBC member state No mandatory return Home	MD or equivalent prioritized
Child Lung Health	Paediatric respiratory medicine and research in child lung health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From Europe or a Scientifically Developing Country going to Europe (EU,EEA) Mandatory return Home	MD undergoing specialist clinical training in child lung health

Table 4

11.1 ERS/Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax (ALAT) joint fellowship

- This jointly funded fellowship aims to build capacity and expertise in any area of respiratory health, medicine and science.
- Candidates must be either based in Latin America (Spanish/Portuguese Latin America speaking countries) going to a European country, or Europe-based or overseas-based going to Latin America (Spanish/Portuguese Latin America speaking countries). Applicants should hold an ALAT and/or active ERS membership.
- Applicants should be actively engaged in research/science/practice that is relevant to respiratory medicine. Early-career physicians, scientists or qualified health professionals (non-MD) should hold a postgraduate education (MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student) and have appropriate scientific, medical and/or professional qualifications and experience.

- d. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and to implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.
- e. Project duration: 6 to 12 months.

11.2 ERS/Deutsche Zentrum für Lungenforschung (DZL) joint fellowship

- a. This jointly funded fellowship aims to build capacity and expertise in any area of respiratory health, medicine and science.
- b. Applicants should be actively engaged in research/science/practice that is relevant to respiratory medicine.
- c. Applicants must be postgraduates holding a university degree in the field of respiratory medicine/science, MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, or equivalent (immunologists, biologists, geneticists, biochemists, pharmacologists, chemists, biophysicists, etc.). Candidates may also be qualified healthcare professionals (non-MD) working in respiratory medicine/health (nurses, physiotherapists, respiratory function technologists, allied respiratory professionals, etc.).
- d. Candidates must be based in any country in Europe or overseas (except in Germany) and going to one of the DZL sites in Germany:
 - Borstel/Lübeck/Kiel/Grosshansdorf
 - Giessen/Marburg/Bad Nauheim
 - München (Munich)
 - Hannover
 - Heidelberg
- e. Applicants should hold an active ERS membership.
- f. Project duration: 12 to 24 months.

11.3 ERS/Sociedad Española de Neumología y Cirugía Torácica (SEPAR) joint fellowship

- a. This jointly funded fellowship aims to build capacity and expertise in any area of respiratory health, medicine and science.
- b. Applicants should be actively engaged in research/science/practice that is relevant to respiratory medicine. Early-career physicians, scientists or qualified health professionals (non-MD) should hold a postgraduate education (MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student) and have appropriate scientific, medical and/or professional qualifications and experience.
- c. Applicants must either be based in Spain and going to another European country; or be based in Europe or overseas and going to Spain. Applicants who are resident in Spain must hold an active SEPAR and/or ERS active membership.
- d. Project duration: 6 to 12 months.

11.4 ERS/Société de Pneumologie de Langue Française (SPLF) joint fellowship

- a. This jointly funded fellowship aims to build capacity and expertise in any area of respiratory health, medicine and science.
- b. Applicants should hold an ERS and an SPLF membership.
- c. Applicants should be actively engaged in research/science/practice that is relevant to respiratory medicine. Early-career physicians, scientists or qualified health professionals (non-MD) should hold a postgraduate education (MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD, PhD-Student) and have appropriate scientific, medical and/or professional qualifications and experience.
- d. Applicants should be based in France and going to another European country, or be based in Europe and going to France. Additionally, this fellowship is opened to applicants based in a scientifically developing country going to a host institution in France.
- e. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.

- f. Project duration: 6 to 12 months.

11.5 Child Lung Health (Paediatrics)

- a. This programme is for MDs undergoing specialist clinical training in child lung health (respiratory diseases) who want to develop new research skills in this area, with a keen interest to pursue an academic paediatric career.
- b. Fellowships are for basic or translational research projects. Applicants should be lung health paediatrician's from a health care setting with an identified need/gap in paediatric respiratory medicine and research.
- c. Applicants Home centre must be based in Europe or in a Scientifically Developing Country with scientific gaps and needs in child lung health (respiratory diseases). The host centre must be in Europe / in another European country than the Home centre (EU, EEA).
- d. Applicants from overseas whose country is not from a scientifically developing country are not eligible.
- e. Applicants should justify in the project description why the research project cannot be completed or attained at their home country/institution and why going to the identified host institution in Europe is essential.
- f. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and to implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.
- g. Applicants should hold an active ERS membership.
- h. Project duration: 6 to 12 months.

11.6 ERS/EMBO respiratory and molecular biology joint fellowship

- a. This jointly funded fellowship aim to bring clinicians to perform basic science in the field of respiratory science/health with a research project in the field of molecular biology (www.embo.org).
- b. Scientists, physicians or qualified allied health professional (non-MD) with MD, MSc, PhD, MD-PhD related to the respiratory field are eligible for applying. Candidates with a clinical background (MD and MD-PhD) will have the priority.
- c. Candidates should be going to a European country or overseas. Either the home or host should be an EMBC member state (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom).
- d. Applicants should hold an active ERS membership.
- e. Project duration: 6 to 12 months.