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## ECCO Global Grant Fact Sheet

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The [European Crohn's and Colitis Organisation \(ECCO\)](#) offers the new ECCO Global Grant to expand and strengthen the global network of ECCO through research partnerships between centres from [ECCO Member Countries](#) and non-ECCO Member low income or lower-middle income countries (as defined by the [World Bank](#)).

ECCO Global Grants seek to extend the outreach and global perspective of IBD research and may focus on aspects of IBD pathogenesis (e.g. environmental impact, genetics), epidemiology and/or clinical care, among others.

Applications must be multicentre and address knowledge gaps and/or unmet needs relevant to low and lower-middle income countries and feature strong contributions from these countries.

One ECCO Global Grant will be awarded in 2025.

### Eligibility

In order to be eligible, the applicant(s) must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant(s) must submit an original research project proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.
2. The project group must consist of:
  - a Principal Investigator per institution who is responsible for implementing the project on behalf of their participating institution,
  - at least one Principal Investigator who is from a low- or lower-middle income country,
  - a Project Coordinator who is from an [ECCO Member Country](#) (this may or may not be one of the Principal Investigators), who has been identified by the participating institutions for coordinating the overall project

Please note that the number of participating institutions is not limited.

3. All project group applicants that are from an [ECCO Member Country](#) need to be [ECCO Members](#) at the submission deadline. ECCO Membership is not required for Principal Investigators from low-income or lower-middle income countries.
4. The applicant can apply for one ECCO Award category per annual call.
5. Members of [ECCO Governing Board](#) and [ECCO Scientific Committee](#) (SciCom) are excluded from applying.

### Terms of Submission

1. A total of **EUR 300,000** will be awarded for one ECCO Global Grant. It is intended for direct project costs incurred, most notably salary support, equipment, research consumables, institutional overheads and project travel. The proportion of the

budget for the participating institutes in low- or lower-middle income countries must make up at least 50% of the total budget.

If the ECCO Global Grant applicants receive additional funding for the project, this is likely to be regarded as an “add-on” and should not conflict with ECCO funded activities, although ECCO will expect to be informed through the Project Coordinator.

2. The duration of the ECCO Global Grant is 24 months. The proposed study is therefore expected to be completed within two years (with the option of a no-cost extension for up to one year).
3. A department may support one application per ECCO Award category per annual call.
4. The application process will be carried out in two stages:
  - In the first stage, applicants must submit a “Letter of Intent” (max. 2 pages) using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). Please note that only applications using the ECCO Letter of Intent form will be accepted. Particular value is given to the project’s relevance to the call and innovative potential.

The “Letter of Intent” of two pages should contain the following information:

- Project title
  - Abstract including aims, methods and anticipated impact of the proposed project (max. 300 words)
  - Innovative potential (max. 250 words)
  - Budget outline (a transparent budget split per category and subdivided into participating institutions with at least 50% of the total budget allocated to participating institutes in low- or lower-middle income countries).
  - Endorsement signatures of all participating institutions
- In the second stage, the applicants with the highest-ranking eligible applications will be invited to submit a full proposal using the [ECCO Fellowships and Grants Online Submission Pages](#). The proposal should contain the following information:
    - Project title
    - Name and address of the participating institutions
    - Name, address, ECCO Member ID of the Project Coordinator and Principal Investigators (- where applicable)
    - Abstract including aims, methods and anticipated impact (max. 300 words)
    - Introduction (max. 900 words)
    - Objectives (max. 450 words)
      - Overall aim of the research project
      - Award objectives; achievable within the 24-month timeframe and with the funds and support provided by ECCO
    - Methodology and working plan with particular attention to feasibility (max. 1350 words)
    - Chronogram with mandatory milestones and specific deliverables of the project aligned with work plan
    - Significance of anticipated results for the IBD Community (max. 250 words)

- Background of the group (max. 450 words)
- Budget (incl. budget split per category and further explanations, e.g. salary, equipment, consumables, travel and meeting costs, other expenses; institutional overheads are not accepted)

As well as the following documents:

- Signed letters of commitment from all participating institutions explaining how funds and institutional support will be allocated to this project
  - IRB (clinical/experimental) approval of the project of the project, if already available
  - Disclosure of additional funding
5. The deadline for submission for the ECCO Global Grant applications is: **May 2, 2024** (stage 1), and **September 10, 2024** (stage 2).
  6. Applications are scored by IBD Specialists according to five criteria (see review process below). The Scientific Committee of ECCO (SciCom) invites successful applicants to submit a full project proposal in **June 2024** for the second stage.
  7. Payment of the ECCO Global Grant funds is contingent upon the ECCO Global Grant Agreement being signed between the participating institutions and ECCO and paid in Euros. The Grant will be split into one pre-financing payment of **50% in January 2025** and a second payment of **50% in 2026**, conditional on delivery of an interim report using the ECCO report template.
  8. Successful applicants receive the ECCO Global Grant certificate at the annual Congress of ECCO and are encouraged to be present to receive it in-person.
  9. Three reports are to be submitted to ECCO for publication in ECCO channels.
    - A 300-word synopsis (extracted from the online project proposal). Winning proposal abstracts are published in the [JCC Congress Abstract book](#).
    - An interim report of the project progress to be submitted within 12 months of project start date.
    - A final report is due within six months of the project end-date.Note: upon submission of a written request, no-cost-extensions of the deadline can be granted.

For report templates, please contact the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu).
  10. The Project Coordinator and their institution are expected to submit the results of the project in the form of an abstract to the annual [Congress of ECCO](#) following the completion of the Grant objectives.
  11. ECCO Global Grant awardees are required to inform SciCom, via the ECCO Office at [ecco@ecco-ibd.eu](mailto:ecco@ecco-ibd.eu), of any publications and presentations (oral or poster) resulting from the project funded. If this is not upheld, ECCO reserves the right to not review further applications of the awardee.
  12. When presenting or publishing any results of the project, ECCO is to be acknowledged on all printed matter as contributing to the funding. Please contact the ECCO Office to request the ECCO logo for slide presentations. If this is not upheld, ECCO reserves the right to not review further applications of the awardee.
  13. ECCO encourages awardees to submit the project outcome to [JCC](#) for publication.

14. ECCO reserves the right to request a return of unused funds in the case of a serious impediment to project progress such as a significant delay or if the awardee withdraws from the project or field, or similar disruption.

## Review Process

1. All applications are reviewed and scored by ECCO Committee Members or external IBD experts, based on the following five criteria:
  1. Relevance of the project to the mission of this initiative (i.e., extending the global perspective on IBD research; addressing knowledge gaps and unmet needs in IBD in low- and lower-middle income countries; reaching out to countries underrepresented in current IBD research)
  2. Originality of the proposal aims
  3. Methodology
  4. Feasibility of the project work plan – realistically achievable in 24 months and with the provided budget
  5. Long term impact and/or significance of the project
2. Applications need to fulfil the formal criteria: no indication of plagiarism, compliance with word limits justified budget, IRB approval (if submitted).
3. Reviewing: Each Global Grant application will be reviewed by a minimum of three ECCO Committee Members or external IBD experts. The applications will be scored according to the five evaluation criteria and reviewers can make comments on each application.
4. Ranking: Applications are ranked according to their average scores.
5. Selection: ECCO Scientific Committee makes the final selection and seeks approval from the ECCO Governing Board. Please note, in line with a general trend in the scientific world, the active peer reviewing contribution for ECCO will also become a weighing criterion in the selection process when candidate rankings are very close.
2. Notification: Applicants are notified of **stage 1 results in June 2024** and **stage 2 results in October 2024**.

## Reviewers

Reviewers are invited according to their area of expertise and are selected from the following:

- [ECCO Officers \(Committee Members\)](#)
- Officers of [Affiliate ECCO Societies & ECCO Partners](#)
- Former ECCO Congress speakers
- Acknowledged experts
- [Former ECCO Fellowships & Grants awardees](#)