



ECIU Researcher Mobility Fund 2023

Dublin City University application guidelines

Introduction

DCU is a member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) network and is working closely with its 12 partners to build [the ECIU University](#) and [SMART-ER Virtual Research Institute](#) - a strategic and ambitious initiative to establish a joint European University where students, researchers, and external stakeholders across the network work together to create innovative solutions for real life challenges with real societal impact.

The continued development of ECIU University is supported by Erasmus+ funding (2022 – 2026) and Horizon 2020 SwafS award (2021 – 2024), with activities currently focused on **UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'**.

In particular, four ECIU thematic priority areas have been identified:

- Energy and sustainability
- Transport and mobility
- Circular economy
- Resilient communities

To further strengthen the ongoing initiatives within the Erasmus+ and H2020 projects, DCU offers travel grants through the **ECIU Researcher Mobility Fund (RMF)** to support short research or training visits to other member institutions across the alliance.

Besides DCU, the ECIU member institutions include:

- Aalborg University (Denmark)
- Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain/Catalonia)
- Hamburg University of Technology (Germany)
- Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (France)
- Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania)
- Linköping University (Sweden)

- Lodz University of Technology (Poland)
- Tampere University (Finland)
- University of Aveiro (Portugal),
- University of Stavanger (Norway)
- University of Trento (Italy)
- University of Twente (Netherlands)
- Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico – associate member)

In DCU, applications are now open for visits to other member institutions planned in 2023.

Aims of the Researcher Mobility Fund

In line with the overarching objectives of ECIU University, the RMF aims to:

- Promote interactions and strengthen research collaboration among researchers across all member institutions of the ECIU University.
- Catalyse international research excellence and improve high-quality research outputs within ECIU University, for example assisting towards the development of joint research funding applications, publications, and research projects.
- Support professional development of different research-related careers through acquiring specific know-how from the experience and good practice at another member institution.
- Provide access to the excellent research facilities at member institutions of the ECIU University.

Examples of visits supported by the RMF

Applicants are encouraged to explore different types of visits, based on their individual needs. These may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Research activities that strengthen ongoing or build new collaborations, sharing techniques or expertise, and preparing for joint funding applications, upcoming projects, or publications.
- Participation in a short Ph.D study programme available at a member institution.
- Shadowing for researchers or research support staff to get acquainted with a host institution's research infrastructures, working methods or organisational model for the application of this knowledge within DCU.
- Travel to another member institution for a specific training purpose.

Eligibility criteria

- All DCU researchers, Ph.D candidates and research support staff are welcome to apply to the fund. Applicants must be formally affiliated with DCU, holding a

contract of employment or currently registered as a postgraduate research student. Masters and undergraduate students are not eligible to apply.

- The RMF is open to all fields and disciplines, with applications that demonstrate alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and the [ECIU thematic priority areas](#) particularly encouraged.
- The RMF does not support visits to universities or institutions outside of the ECIU network.

Funding and duration

Candidates may apply for a grant **up to €5,000** for travel, accommodation and associated subsistence costs to visit an ECIU partner institution. Granting of the requested amount in full is not guaranteed and is subject to internal quality review and budget evaluation.

The following costs are considered ineligible and will not be covered by the RMF:

- Registration fees or travel costs to a conference, symposium or other event
- Salary costs or consultancy work
- Laboratory bench fees at a hosting member institution
- Personal costs of the applicant

In general, the duration of the mobility is expected to be between **5 - 14 days** at the ECIU hosting institution. However, depending on the purpose of the visit, the duration of stay can be negotiated and justified on an individual basis.

How to apply

The DCU application form is available for direct download here: [DCU RMF application form 2023](#).

Applicants should first liaise directly with the hosting researcher/group or relevant individual and receive written confirmation that the intended visit will be supported by the host institution. RMF local contact points for each institution are available on the ECIU website (<https://www.eciu.org/for-university-staff/researchers-mobility-fund>) and can provide assistance in answering general queries.

Note: All arrangements for travel, accommodation and subsistence are ultimately the responsibility of the applicant. Applicants should ensure they have all appropriate documentation and sufficient insurance coverage for work-related travel abroad and adhere to public health advice and international travel guidelines in place at the time of the visit.

For research or training visits occurring 2023, completed applications should be submitted by email to Emma McGrath (emma.mcgrath@dcu.ie) by close of business (5pm) on **Wednesday 10th May 2023**.

Evaluation

All applications will be checked against the eligibility criteria outlined above. Any ineligible applications will be notified. All eligible applications will undergo the following:

- **quality assessment overview** to ensure the proposed trip aligns with the scope of the call
- **budget review** to ensure estimated costs for the trip are reasonably budgeted and a clear breakdown of individual expenses is provided.

DCU expects to support 5 – 10 RMF awards in 2023. If the number of applications exceeds the funding available, priority will be given to applications in line with ECIU priority areas and SDG 11 (see introduction above) in the first instance. Following this, if the fund remains oversubscribed, an internal review process using evaluation criteria to assess how well the activities of the application aligns with the aims of the programme will be initiated.

Depending on the volume of applications received, it is anticipated that applicants will be notified of the outcome ~2 weeks after the closing date.

Award administration and reporting

All RMF funds will be administered via the successful applicant's local school/centre.

It is required that successful applicants will complete a brief report within one month of completing their visit. It may be requested that the outcomes identified in the report are also adapted for promotional use including testimonials, articles, news stories or social media posts by DCU or ECIU University.

Contact

All queries relating to the ECIU Research Mobility Fund at DCU should be directed to:

Dr Emma McGrath,
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Research and Innovation Support Unit
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