



ECIU Researcher Mobility Fund 2022

Dublin City University application guidelines

Introduction

DCU is one of 12 partners working together to build [the ECIU University](#), an initiative of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU Alliance) that aims to transform higher education on a European scale through a challenge-based approach to education, research and innovation. The first pilot phase of the project (2019-2022) is co-funded by the European Commission as part of the Erasmus+ programme, with activities focused on UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 '*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*'. The ultimate goal of the ECIU University project is to establish a true European University where learners, researchers, business, public organisations and citizens are enabled to work together to create relevant innovative solutions for real life challenges with real societal impact.

Within ECIU, several initiatives are currently underway to provide opportunities for researchers to support their professional development and collaborate seamlessly with trusted ECIU colleagues and societal partners on ambitious SDG-related research projects. The development of the virtual ECIU University Research Institute for Smart European Regions ([SMART-ER](#)), funded by a Horizon 2020 SwafS grant (2021-2024), will act as a testbed for implementing a common R&I agenda, engaging citizens and society and ensuring barrier-free research through embedded mobility across the network.

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

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)

- 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)

Following an unavoidable disruption to the programme during the first phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, ECIU University was delighted to relaunch the Researcher Mobility Fund in late 2021.

In DCU, applications are now open for visits to other member institutions planned in Q1 and Q2 2022.

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

Participants 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 are 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 preference given to applications that demonstrate alignment with UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and the research themes identified in the [ECIU long-term joint research strategy](#).
- 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 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, applicants are expected to spend a **minimum of 5 working days** (excluding travel days) at the host institution. However, depending on the purpose of the visit, the duration of stay can be negotiated and justified on an individual basis.

COVID-19 and travel advice

Applicants should ensure they have sufficient insurance coverage for work-related travel abroad. In addition, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure they are familiar with and adhere to public health advice and international travel guidelines in place at the time of the visit, and remain cognisant that regulations can change at short notice.

Disruption to awarded grants that prevent the visit from occurring when intended will be handled on an individual basis. As well as referring to the appropriate governmental websites in Ireland and abroad, applicants should also consult the DCU advice on work-related international travel available through the following link:

<https://www.dcu.ie/attendingdcu-students-working-through-the-pandemic>

How to apply

The DCU application form is available for direct download here: [DCU RMF application form 2022](#).

Applicants should first liaise directly with the hosting researcher/group or relevant individual and receive written confirmation (e.g. e-mail) 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 identifying new collaborative partners or in answering general queries relating to the visit.

For research or training visits occurring in Q1 and Q2 2022, completed applications should be submitted by email to Emma McGrath (emma.mcgrath@dcu.ie) by close of business on **Friday 11th February 2022**.

Evaluation

All applications will first be checked against the eligibility criteria outlined above. Any ineligible applications will be notified at this stage and will not proceed to evaluation.

A short internal review process will take place based on the following assessment criteria:

- 1. Purpose of the visit (25%):** The purpose and aim(s) of the visit are clearly articulated and the value of the trip is evident.
- 2. Planned activities (25%):** Specific activities to be undertaken at the host institution are well described and linked to the aim(s) of the visit. Planned activities should be achievable within the timeframe of the trip.
- 3. Expected outcomes (25%):** The anticipated short-term outcomes of the research visit should be outlined and, if applicable, how the collaboration will continue to be sustained in the medium or long-term.
- 4. Budget (25%):** The estimated costs for the trip should be reasonably budgeted with a clear breakdown of individual expenses provided.

Each application will be assessed by two reviewers and ranked according to the average scores. If two applications cannot be distinguished based on the assessment criteria outlined above, ranking will occur based on the alignment of the application to SDG 11 and the research themes identified in the ECIU long-term joint research strategy.

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

Reporting

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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