

European Charcot Foundation Fellow Community Small Grant Fund

Executive summary

We announce the launch of a new annual European Charcot Foundation Fellow Community small grant fund. The purpose of the grant is to encourage young investigators to gain experience in grant-writing, help their transition to independence, and stimulate new ideas in MS research. Two grants will be awarded up to a value of €20,000 and will last for 18 months.

Background and rationale

The ECF Fellowship Community consists of >25 researchers interested in MS under the age of 35. Every year, investigators under the age of 35 attend the annual meeting. Many of these investigators have minimal experience in securing their own grant funding. The process of applying for small project grants is an important skill for young investigators to develop, even if the sums of money involved are relatively small in the context of research funding. There are various benefits of applying for small project funds, including experience in writing a proposal, planning an experiment, engaging with various practical aspects of project design (such as ethical approval and costing), and serving as a useful stepping stone to gather preliminary data for more substantial grant applications. The experience of applying for small project grants is therefore very useful for young investigators aiming to transition to independence within 5-10 years, and we believe this is a process the ECF board would benefit from.

Who can apply

To be eligible for the grant you must be:

- Under the age of 35 at the time of submission
- A member of the ECF fellows community or an ECF Young Investigator in 2019, 2020 and 2021
- Currently undertaking MS research, or planning to do so
- Working with, or in contact with, a supervisor with experience in MS research

We will prioritize applications from individuals who have had limited opportunities in MS research, are from less economically developed countries (LEDCs), and are from under-represented groups.



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How long does it last for

The grant must be spent in full over an 18-month period or less. Requests for extension must be made in writing.

How to apply

To apply please submit the following:

- A project proposal
- Your CV
- Your supervisor's CV

The project proposal should be submitted as a word document containing the following sections:

- Contact details for you and your supervisor
- A lay summary of the project (300 words)
- A scientific abstract of the project (300 words)
- Costings (justification of costs; 300 words)
- Pathways to impact: how will the research benefits people with MS (300 words)
- Personal development: how does this research project fit into your personal development as a researcher (300 words)

Please email the completed document to secretariat@charcot-ms.org

What would be expected of successful applicants

Recipients of the award are expected to present their findings at the annual ECF meeting, and ideally publish the results in peer-reviewed format. In addition, you will be expected to submit a grant report of no more than 2000 words at the end of the 18-month period. This report should explain your findings and methods, list any research outputs, and discuss the impact of your research on people with MS. We expect recipients to acknowledge the role of the ECF as a funding source in the publication, and we expect recipients to become a part of the ECF fellow community to share their knowledge and help encourage other young researchers to become involved in MS.