

Short-term, hybrid, well-funded – ECR Fellowships Enhancing European Collaboration

Introducing EPICradle(s)

EPICradles are an opportunity for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) from EPICUR partner universities

- to acquire new research skills and competences, especially in the area of interdisciplinary & transdisciplinary collaboration in a European context;
- to gain information on funding schemes,
- connect to ECRs and to develop collaborative projects.

As such EPICradles function as ‘incubators’ for innovative research led by ECRs. Overall, the main objective is to produce challenge-based projects beneficial to society, addressing such broad topics as sustainability, mobility/migration/identity, and public health. Known as EPIChallenges, these topics are meant to engage researchers in the broader responses to global questions about the future of humanity. During the EPICradles, ECRs will have ample opportunities to engage with senior scholars, administrators and experts from universities and beyond.

How does it work?

The fellowships will be organized as hybrid formats, running for three months. They will bring together two groups of up to 5 ECRs from different partner universities for virtual and physical collaboration. Both groups will be working on topics relevant to one or more of the EPIChallenges (Sustainability, Mobility / Migration / Identity, Public Health Transitions). This is an invitation to explore interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research activities to foster new academic careers. During the EPICradles, ECRs will have ample opportunities to engage with senior scholars, administrators and experts from universities and beyond to turn their research ideas into fundable projects.

What happens during an EPICradle?

The EPICradles will consist of two physical meeting phases (about 2 weeks each) connected through a virtual intermission, during which the groups will be able to communicate and develop their ideas virtually. In a closing event, participants will be able to share their results and reflections on the EPICradle with the EPICUR alliance and the wider public.

Who can apply?

The EPICradle is aimed exclusively at ECRs (R1 & R2 of the European Commission’s Career Development Stages) who wish to develop interdisciplinary teams of researchers, to turn their research ideas into project proposals. 1-2 applicants in the group may be working at non-university or even non-academic institutions affiliated to a partner university, IF they can prove a sincere interest in pursuing research or research-relevant careers in the future. All potential fellows must be eligible and able to spend 2x2 weeks in any of the EPICUR universities and have an official affiliation with at least one partner university.

How do you apply?

Applications must be submitted through the University of Freiburg’s application portal. They will have to be submitted by groups of 3-5 emerging scholars, coming from at least 3 different EPICUR countries per institutional affiliation (Germany, France, Netherlands, Greece, Poland, Austria). Of the 3 Early Career Researchers, at least two must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis no less than 3 months and no more than 6 years ago (allowances for people with care responsibilities might be made on an individual basis); additional applicants may also be in the final stages of their doctoral research or more advanced in their careers (<6+ years of experience since their doctoral thesis’ defense).

Key Elements of the Program:

- 3 months, from June to September 2022, 2x2 weeks physical stay in Freiburg (tbd)
- 3.000 € individual stipends + 5.000 € group budget
- Virtual infrastructure: MS Teams Space & Zoom Accounts
- Institutional Support & Expert Input from all partner universities

More information soon at <https://epicur.education/research/research-activities/epicradles/>