

# ERS Clinical Training Fellowships (CTF) 2023 Application Guidance

1 July 2023



## Contents

1	Introduction .....	- 3 -
2	Eligibility requirements.....	- 3 -
2.1	Academic qualifications .....	- 3 -
2.2	Age and career.....	- 3 -
2.3	ERS membership.....	- 3 -
2.4	Fellowship mobility.....	- 4 -
2.5	Home institution.....	- 4 -
2.6	Requirements for the home institution and home supervisor .....	- 4 -
2.7	Host institution .....	- 4 -
2.8	Requirements for the host institution and supervisor .....	- 4 -
2.9	Schedule and duration .....	- 5 -
2.10	Previous ERS Fellowship(s).....	- 5 -
2.11	Extension of a previous project supported by other funds.....	- 5 -
2.12	Unexpected events and issues.....	- 5 -
3	Fellowship programmes .....	- 5 -
3.1	Standard.....	- 6 -
3.2	Scientifically Developing Countries .....	- 6 -
4	Online application.....	- 6 -
4.1	Online application completion.....	- 6 -
4.2	Work Plan description .....	- 7 -
4.3	Candidate's learning path .....	- 7 -
4.4	ERS HERMES examination.....	- 7 -
4.5	Area of medical training.....	- 7 -
4.6	Home & Host Supervisors' files .....	- 8 -
4.7	Applicant's personal files* .....	- 8 -
4.8	Ethics, compliance and integrity.....	- 8 -
4.9	Use of animals in research and training.....	- 9 -
5	Selection process.....	- 9 -
6	Fellowship grant calculation.....	- 10 -
6.1	Calculation .....	- 10 -
6.2	Subsistence and child allowance rates.....	- 11 -
7	Home and Host salary .....	- 11 -
8	Insurances, taxes and visa .....	- 11 -
9	Other fellowships and funding schemes .....	- 12 -
10	Reporting and publications .....	- 12 -
10.1	Fellowship reporting.....	- 12 -
10.2	Publications.....	- 12 -
11	Clinical Training Fellowship schemes.....	- 13 -
11.1	ERS/ERN-Lung Joint Fellowship .....	- 13 -



## 1 Introduction

- a. ERS Clinical Training Fellowship (CTF) programme aims to:
  - Promote training, techniques and methods in respiratory medicine for all health care providers with patients suffering from respiratory diseases.
  - Contribute to the transfer and implementation of new techniques or methodologies.
  - Stimulate fellowship recipients' career development.
  - Foster knowledge and collaboration between institutions in different countries by sponsoring mobility.
  - Support and build knowledge in countries where there is a training gap.
- b. CTFs are intended to enable members in the early stages of their career in respiratory medicine to visit a host institution in a European country other than their own, with the aim of learning a skill or procedure not available in their current home institution. The medical training should benefit the home institution when the applicant returns there, and ultimately where possible the fellowship recipient should try and incorporate the newly acquired skill or procedure back into daily practice.
- c. ERS fellowships are not granted for undergraduate studies, workshops, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses or for visiting institutions.
- d. CTFs are from 1 month to 6 months.
- e. Applicants are awarded based on scientific merit, but ERS also strives to maintain a fair gender balance, geographical spread in the profile of the selected applicants, and diversity within the respiratory fields of the selected projects.
- f. No distinction will be made between candidates based on gender, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs.

## 2 Eligibility requirements

### 2.1 Academic qualifications

- a. Candidates should be actively engaged or must have experience in the respiratory field.
- b. Applicants should be qualified clinicians or healthcare professionals working in respiratory health/medicine (nurses, physiotherapists, respiratory function technologists, allied respiratory professionals, etc.). At a minimum, applicants should hold an MD, MSc or equivalent at the time of application.
- c. Postgraduate scientists such as immunologists, biologists, geneticists, pharmacologists, biophysicists, chemists, etc. involved in respiratory science, are entitled to apply for the ERS Clinical Training Fellowships. At a minimum, applicants should hold an MD or MSc at the time of application.
- d. Candidates should have adequate fluency in the language spoken at the host institution.

### 2.2 Age and career

- a. There is no age limit and applications from candidates having undertaken a career break (e.g. parental leave, period working outside training, unemployment etc.) are encouraged.

### 2.3 ERS membership

- a. Candidates must be ERS members when applying for an ERS Clinical Training Fellowship.
- b. Candidates with a national or regional society membership can obtain a joint membership with ERS through their respective national or regional society if ERS has a membership agreement with this society. To proceed candidates should contact their national or regional society who will do the necessary and coordinate the joint affiliation with the ERS directly.
- c. The list of societies the ERS has an agreement with can be found on the ERS website: <https://www.ersnet.org/the-society/membership/ers-partnerships-with-national-societies>
- d. Candidates with no membership and no possibility of applying for a joint membership must subscribe to an ERS membership online. Please go online on MyERS <https://my.ersnet.org/> for further information.



### 2.4 Fellowship mobility

- a. ERS fellowships promote training in Europe and internationally. All nationalities, European and non-European based candidates are allowed to submit a project proposal.
- b. Mobility is crucial as ERS fellowships promote knowledge sharing between countries, therefore exchanges between two institutions within the same country are not allowed. To understand mobility limitations, please refer to section 3).
- c. Applicants who, at the time of the deadline, have been in their host institution for more than 6 months are not eligible.
- d. Applicants already at the host institution for less than 6 months and applying for the same host institution (extension, continuation) will be considered, if the fellowship is intended to support exchange of knowledge (mobility component).
- e. All programmes include a mandatory return to the Home institution. Return plans should be included in the project description accordingly.

### 2.5 Home institution

- a. The home supervisor refers to the applicant's current supervisor at the centre where she/he is currently based. However, it is also possible for the applicant to put forward one of her/his past supervisors (e.g. PhD supervisor, etc) provided that the person can act as a referee and comment on the candidate's work, in relation to the proposed work plan.
- b. Candidates with a clear formal connection/link to their home institution will be prioritised.
- c. It is up to the applicant to identify the most relevant person for this application and to contact them.

### 2.6 Requirements for the home institution and home supervisor

- a. The home supervisor is required to read, complete and sign the Home Release Form Acceptance (form available on ERS online application platform). The information in the Home Release Form must match the information included in the online application.

### 2.7 Host institution

- a. The host supervisor refers to the individual that will employ, supervise and train the fellow throughout the fellowship. The host centre and host supervisor will be the main contact/reference and will have the overall responsibility to ensure compliance and the smooth running of the whole fellowship.
- b. It is crucial to select a host supervisor based on his/her competences, knowledge and expertise linked to the area of the training plan. The host institution's facilities, machinery, equipment and resources should be available for the applicant to carry out the training.
- c. The choice of host centre is an important criterion that will be assessed by ERS experts during the selection process, application without appropriate justification will not be considered.
- d. It is up to the applicant to identify the most relevant institution and supervisor for the application. Applicants must contact potential Hosts on their own time and ERS will not provide any assistance in the search of a host centre.

### 2.8 Requirements for the host institution and supervisor

- a. Several candidates may apply to the same Host institution, however no more than one candidate within the same Host institution will be selected.
- b. The host supervisor is required to read, complete and sign the Host Acceptance Form (form available on ERS online application platform). The information in the Host Acceptance Form must match the information included in the online application.
- c. The host supervisor is required to provide the applicant with his/her relevant publications related to the project proposal. These publications will be included in the online application.
- d. The host institution should provide administrative support for all practicalities before, during and at the end of the fellowship (housing, safety induction, etc.).



- e. The Host supervisor should provide scientific support during the fellowship (regular meetings and evaluations) and at the end of the fellowship (end of project report).

### 2.9 Schedule and duration

- a. ERS Clinical Training Fellowships' duration is between 1 and 6 months maximum.
- b. **October 2023 round (deadline on 16 October 2023):** ERS will notify successful candidates mid-February 2024. Fellowships may start from beginning of March 2024 at the earliest. The last date for starting a fellowship must be beginning of February 2025. Fellowship recipients have one year to start their fellowship, should they not comply with the given timeframe, ERS maintains the right to revoke their fellowship.
- c. The work plan is to be carried out on a full-time basis (100%) and cannot be split nor reduced. Should candidates be potentially interested in working part-time for family or personal reasons, this will need to be requested and agreed with the host centre(s) and ERS. If approved, all the allowances will be calculated pro-rata (30-day month). Kindly note that it may not always be feasible to have such arrangements and applicants must ensure that by working part-time they will be eligible for a visa for the duration of their fellowship in the selected Host country.
- d. Between the notification date and the start of the fellowship, successful candidates should complete travel, visa, passport, housing formalities, insurances, etc. To achieve this, they should engage with their host and home institutions and related authorities ahead of time.

### 2.10 Previous ERS Fellowship(s)

- a. Applicants who have already been awarded an ERS Long-Term Research Fellowship, a Respire 1/2/3/4 Fellowship, an ERS Short-Term Research Fellowship or a Clinical Training Fellowship in the past are not eligible.

### 2.11 Extension of a previous project supported by other funds

- a. Applications for the extension of a previous training plan supported from other sources will be considered in competition as any other applications based on scientific merit.
- b. Applicants should inform the ERS about the success or challenges/failures of the earlier training. A description of the new added value in terms of skills, techniques, methods should be included.

### 2.12 Unexpected events and issues

- a. The implementation of the training plan should be carried out as described in the application. Any change should be notified to ERS prior to implementation. This includes the start date and end date of the fellowship. The ERS should be notified by email at the earliest when a change is foreseen, for approval.
- b. Any event or circumstance which might affect the implementation of the fellowship or are likely to have an effect on the performance of the fellowship need to be notified to the ERS at the earliest.
- c. Applicants who wish to terminate their Fellowship prematurely should notify ERS immediately. Necessary steps will be taken to receive confirmation from the Host. The reimbursement of the unused Fellowship grant or reduction of the amount still due by ERS will be managed by the ERS office. An end-of-project report will be due (see 11.1.a).
- d. Should any unexpected event(s) be deemed too critical to conduct the fellowship, ERS maintains the right to revoke the fellowship.

## 3 Fellowship programmes

ERS office will evaluate applicants' eligibility in terms of academic and professional requirements, training plan and mobility. Candidates are categorised under ERS programmes (please refer to Table 1) or joint fellowship schemes (please refer to Chapter 12, Table 5) that have been established between ERS, national Respiratory Societies or research organisations. It is mandatory for candidates to comply with at least one of the mobility requirements in Table 1. For further details concerning the joint fellowships schemes, refer to the Chapter 12, Table 5.

*Table 1*

ERS Fellowship programmes	Mobility requirement	Eligibility requirements (refer to section 2)
Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From Europe* to Europe*</li> <li>- From overseas to Europe*</li> </ul> Mandatory return Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clinicians or qualified allied health professional (non-MD)</li> <li>- MD, MSc or equivalent related to the respiratory field</li> </ul>
Scientifically Developing Countries (SDC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From Europe* or overseas (country with a scientific respiratory gap and or low income) to Europe* (EU/EEA)</li> </ul> Mandatory return Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project duration 1 to 6 months</li> <li>- Mandatory active ERS membership</li> </ul>

\*Europe is defined according to the World Health Organization definition.

### 3.1 Standard

- a. Candidates should be or residents in a country in Europe, going to another country in Europe or should be based overseas and going to Europe.
- b. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.

### 3.2 Scientifically Developing Countries

- a. Applicants should be based in a scientifically developing country (source World Bank) and going to Europe, or should be based in a country in Europe with a scientific gap in the respiratory field going to another country in Europe.
- b. This programme is for applicants with no or little opportunity to get education or training in the respiratory field in their home country and with respiratory research gaps and needs, which can be considered as developing from a scientific perspective.
- c. Applicants must explain the respiratory gaps and needs in the home country/institution and why it is essential to go to Europe. Data as well as other key documents (e.g. policy papers, etc) should support the gap statement.
- d. Candidates should explain how the acquired skills/experience will benefit their home country/institution and how they propose to share/disseminate the knowledge gained upon return.
- e. A return to the home institution is mandatory upon fellowship completion. The aim is to transfer and to implement the acquired skills at the home institution level. The project description should detail activities, timing, and resources for transferring knowledge at the home institution level.

## 4 Online application

### 4.1 Online application completion

- a. The online application will open on 16 August 2023 and close on 16 October 2023 (23:59 pm CEST).
- b. The online application must be completed, and all supporting documents must be uploaded via the ERS online application platform. We advise applicants to prepare them in advance before the deadline.
- c. Once the application is submitted, applicants have a read-only access and cannot make any further changes. ERS office will not accept requests to modify or update the application once submitted. Applications with missing files or documents that do not comply with the set limitations will not be processed for selection or will be cut to fit the set requirements.
- d. An automated transcript will be issued from the candidates' online application submission and the reviewers will base their evaluation on the provided information.
- e. The required supporting documents must be uploaded via the online application platform and submitted along with the completed online application form.



## 4.2 Work Plan description

- a. Required format:
  - 2 pages maximum (including references)
  - Font size 12pts Times New Roman or Arial
  - Margins min. 1cm top and bottom and min.1.5 cm left and right
- b. If the document exceeds the given limitations, only the first 2 pages will be submitted. If the document does not comply with the restrictions, it will not be submitted.
- c. The two pages should provide a clear and realistic work plan with a scope achievable within the set time frame.
- d. The work plan should be explained, with evidence of facilities and resources available at the host to support the training. The value of the training for career development and for the home institution (where applicable) should be stated, as well as how the obtained knowledge could add value to the respiratory area. The project should demonstrate the needs/gaps in respiratory techniques/methods at their home institution and outline how they intend to address them. Plans for transferring knowledge, as well as for implementing gained knowledge at the home institution should be included. The work plan should be prepared by the applicant with the contribution and approval of the host supervisors.

## 4.3 Candidate's learning path

- a. Required format:
  - 2 pages maximum (including references)
  - Font size 12pts Times New Roman or Arial
  - Margins min. 1cm top and bottom and min.1.5 cm left and right
- b. If the document exceeds the given limitations, only the first 2 pages will be submitted. If the document does not comply with the restrictions, it will not be submitted.
- c. The learning path must detail the postgraduate courses and activities planned after the fellowship. It should explain how the fellowship would fit as a practical implementation of the learning path.

## 4.4 ERS HERMES examination

The ERS HERMES examinations in respiratory medicine are developed and organised by the European Respiratory Society (ERS). These written, multiple-choice question examinations are based on respective European syllabi and are the main European-level examinations in respiratory medicine. The aim of the exams is to set a common, high standard of knowledge amongst respiratory specialists and trainees within Europe - establishing the ERS HERMES European Diploma examinations as a key additional quality stamp, which certifies excellence of respiratory specialists within Europe and around the world.

- a. It is not mandatory to have sat the HERMES examination to be considered eligible for the CTF. However, candidates who have sat one of the examinations will be considered as priority.
- b. If a candidate successfully obtains the CTF, although he/she did not pass the HERMES examination, we encourage the candidate to sit the examination during the Fellowship.

## 4.5 Area of medical training

Candidates must indicate the main areas of the application by selecting 1 to 3 keywords within the below table (Table 2). The selection of keywords is crucial to the reviewing process of the submitted application. Applications will be sorted and categorized into Groups according to the area of the proposed work plan. Reviewers will be allocated and matched to the Groups, based on their expertise and the main area of the Group.

Keywords		
Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Airway Diseases	Acute lung injury and critical care	Applied health service research
Interstitial Lung Diseases	Asthma and allergy	Cell and Molecular Biology

Paediatric Respiratory Diseases	CF and non-CF bronchiectasis	Endoscopy and Interventional Pulmonology
Pulmonary Vascular Diseases	COPD and smoking	Epidemiology
Respiratory Critical Care	Epidemiology, occupational and environmental lung disease	General respiratory patient care
Respiratory Infections	E-health and m-health	Imaging
Sleep and Breathing disorders	Genetics	Physiology
Thoracic Oncology	Interstitial and orphan lung disease	Public Health
	Lung biology and experimental studies	Pulmonary function testing
	Lung cancer	Respiratory Intensive Care
	Lung imaging	Surgery
	Lung structure and function	Transplantation
	Mechanisms of lung disease	
	Paediatric pulmonology	
	Physiotherapy	
	Pulmonary pharmacology and therapeutics	
	Pulmonary vascular disease	
	Pulmonary rehabilitation	
	Respiratory clinical practice	
	Respiratory infections and tuberculosis	
	Sleep medicine	

Table 2

#### 4.6 Home & Host Supervisors' files

- a. Templates are available to download on the online application platform. Both Home and Host supervisors must complete and sign their respective forms, the information in both forms must accurately match the information included in the online application concerning the Home and Host.
- b. For candidates to be considered eligible, the Home and Host supervisor must accept all terms and conditions mentioned in the forms.

#### 4.7 Applicant's personal files\*

- a. A scanned copy of the candidate's highest degree (PhD, MD, MSc, etc.) in English or with an official translation.
- b. A scanned copy of the applicant's ID card or passport.
- c. For children under 18 years of age under the applicant's responsibility, the applicant must upload a scanned copy of child/children's birth certificate(s) or family record book in English or with an official translation.
- d. If the applicant will be receiving a salary from either his Home or Host institution during the period of the Fellowship, the applicant must upload a salary confirmation letter (from either Home or Host, depending which institution will be providing the salary). The letter must be written on the institution's letterhead, with institution's stamp stating the exact NET amount the candidate will receive in EURO per month.

*\*Please note that these documents are kept strictly confidential within the European Respiratory Society and will not be shared with reviewers. They are used exclusively to determine the applicant's eligibility for the programme and to assess the fellowship grant cost calculation.*

#### 4.8 Ethics, compliance and integrity

- a. ERS strongly suggest that applicants and their host institution start all necessary requests for ethical permission/any permission required by the regulatory body/bodies (license to practice, local ethic committees) before the start of the fellowship. The host and the applicant should target to receive the formal permission for the start date of the fellowship. Failure to do this has severely impacted previous funding projects and the ERS will not accept any delay on the project caused by this matter.



- b. Applicants will have to provide detailed information regarding their ethical permission application and any ethical considerations for their application proposal.

#### 4.9 Use of animals in research and training

- a. ERS promotes research and training with the use of alternatives and supports 3Rs guiding principles for ethical use of animal testing (replacement, reduction and refinement).
- b. Applicants should integrate a 3Rs strategy and a plan, and demonstrate the use of replacement, reduction and refinement techniques in their proposal involving animals, where applicable.
- c. Further information and definitions are available on the following websites.:
- ARRIVE Guidelines [www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/arrive-guidelines)
  - 3Rs approach [www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/what-is-animal-research/three-rs](http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/what-is-animal-research/three-rs)
  - 3Rs approach [www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs)

## 5 Selection process

- a. ERS Clinical Training Fellowship programmes are under the responsibility of the ERS Education Council, which is under the accountability of the ERS Executive Committee. The latter is responsible for the final endorsement following recommendations made by the Education Council. In order to keep a high standard of applications and quality of the proposed projects, ERS is strictly enforcing these management rules.
- b. Fellowships are awarded based on scientific merit. To achieve this, selection is made in two steps:
- A peer-review process with in-depth evaluations of the applications and supported documents, with scoring and shortlisting by ERS College of Experts members.
  - A teleconference to discuss the final ranking list among all reviewers of the round. The final selection is passed on to ERS Education Council for validation and the final endorsement is made by ERS Executive Committee.
- c. The College of Experts' task and responsibility are to assess the work plan and supporting documents based on criteria provided below:
- Work plan 50%

Relevance to the respiratory area; Potential impact (e.g. patient related outcomes, translational potential, policy-making); Relevance of the training and added value for the Home institution; Novelty & innovation potential; Adequacy of approach, methodology and work plan; Feasibility and quality of the work plan, including back up-plan; Ethical processes

- Quality and potential of candidate 40%

Quality of CV (qualifications, training, previous background); Overall potential to carry out the work plan successfully; Quality and feasibility of Career Development Plan; Potential of fellowship and training to enhance and advance the fellow's skills

- Training Environment 10%

Scientific/technical competence and expertise of host centre, in relation to specific candidate and required expertise/training; Potential of fellowship to lead to new international collaborations; Opportunity for suitable interactions with co-workers

- d. The College of Experts grade each criterion as following:

5	Outstanding quality - should be funded
4	Excellent quality but areas left for improvement - should be considered for funding
3	Good quality but many weaknesses - should not be funded
2	Below average quality threshold - should not be funded
1	Poor quality - should not be funded

Table 3



The median is calculated on the score provided by each expert. The initial ranking order is established based on the candidates' average grade. The College of Experts can view the ranking list and the other reviewers scoring (anonymously). They can provide comments and justify why they think one (or several) candidate(s) should be ranked higher or lower. Based on the ranking list and comments of the College of Experts a teleconference is organised with all reviewers of the round to make a final decision on the selected candidates. The final ranking list is submitted to ERS leadership for endorsement.

- e. Assessments are strictly confidential and will not be shared outside of ERS.
- f. Appeals are not considered unless formal mistakes have been made by ERS.

## 6 Fellowship grant calculation

### 6.1 Calculation

ERS Clinical Training Fellowships include a living stipend, a child allowance and a travel grant. An upfront payment of maximum 1'000 EURO is paid one month before the planned start date of the fellowship. The second payment covers the remaining amount of the grant and is issued once the applicant has arrived at the Host institution. ERS office requests a confirmation of arrival from the host to transfer the payment. Fellowship instalments are in EURO, no matter of the location of the home and host countries.

- a. The living stipend
  - The living stipend covers costs related to food, accommodation, transportation, etc in the host country. The monthly rate varies per host country (see subsistence rates in Table 5 below).
  - The living stipend is not intended for covering costs in the home country during the fellowship. Fellowship recipients are responsible for making separate arrangements to manage expenses in their home country during their fellowship abroad (rent, mortgage, taxes, insurances, etc.).
- b. Child allowance
  - Child allowance is provided per child under the age of 18 years old, based on birth certificate provided in the application form. The child allowance varies per host country (see the subsistence rate in Table 3 below).
  - If the candidate or the candidate's partner's is pregnant and the pregnancy is known before the application submission, applicants may submit a letter from their obstetrician-gynaecologist or general practitioner. The birth certificate will be requested upon delivery of the child.
  - The child allowance will not be amended at a later stage if an additional child is conceived after the application submission and is born into the fellowship recipient's household.
- c. Travel grant
  - A one-off travel lump sum grant is given to each fellowship recipient for covering travel costs between the home and host institutions:
    - 200€ are granted for distances between host and home institutions below 5'000km.
    - 700€ are granted for distances over 5'000km.
    - For applicants coming from scientifically developing countries to Europe, the one-off lump sum is of 400€ for distances between host and home institutions below 5'000 km. For distances over 5'000 km the lump sum is of 1'200€.
  - There is no travel support for family members or accompanying people (wife, husband, partner, children, etc.).
  - When the fellowship recipient is already present at the host institution or within the host country, travel support is generally not provided. Nevertheless, in exceptional cases and contingent upon specific conditions, half of the travel support may be granted.

## 6.2 Subsistence and child allowance rates

The subsistence and child allowance rates depend on the cost of living in the host country. These rates are subject to change every year. The figures here below (Table 4) show the 2023 subsistence and child allowance rates. If your host country is not listed below, please contact the ERS office.

Host country	Subsistence monthly rate (EURO)	Child allowance (EURO)
Austria	2910	410
Belgium	3330	370
Denmark	3540	400
Finland	3330	360
France	2910	380
Germany	2910	390
Greece	2480	370
Hungary	2080	310
Ireland	3120	390
Italy	2860	390
Netherlands	2970	380
Norway	3540	400
Portugal	2500	370
Spain	2600	370
Sweden	3330	390
Switzerland	4480	510
United Kingdom	3120	390

## 7 Home and Host salary

- Candidates that continue to receive in part or in totality a monthly salary from their home or host institution during the ERS fellowship, must report the figure of the exact monthly NET amount (salary after deductions, such as income taxes and social security, etc.) received in EURO in the online application.
- In this case, candidates will also be requested to provide an official letter from either the home or host institution (depending on who will be providing the salary) (see 5.7.d for details).
- The salary will be deducted from the ERS fellowship grant. The Fellowship may not be granted at all if the financial support by the home or host institute is equal or higher than the ERS fellowship living/subsistence stipend.
- Exceptions are granted for financial support provided by the home/host institution or other funding source for covering obligatory health and safety insurances, legal and social security insurances, pension schemes and child support. In this case, the ERS fellowships will be paid in full, no deductions.
- Successful applicants are encouraged to engage in teaching, discussion and similar activities at the institution they visit. They may not, however, engage in paid or salaried activities, without prior agreement from the ERS office and their Host institution.

## 8 Insurances, taxes and visa

- Fellowship recipients are neither agents nor employees of ERS. ERS accepts no liability for fellowship recipient's wrongdoing actions or activities in respect to health or safety, insurances, and taxes.



- b. It is the fellowship recipient and the home/host supervisor's responsibility to find a mutual agreement on aspects cited within the Application Guidelines on the fellowship recipient's status and other national requirements for the duration of the fellowship at the host institution.
- c. ERS can provide a Visa letter to help the visa application process, nevertheless, it is the fellowship recipient's responsibility to plan the application ahead of time. We encourage applicants to apply for the visa immediately once received confirmation of the fellowship. Visa applications can take time and we suggest applicants to take it into consideration when scheduling their initial start date.
- d. The fellowship recipient is fully responsible to ensure that he/she and the accompanying family members staying at the host country for the duration of the fellowship are covered with social security, medical, accident schemes and other necessary schemes where applicable, and are provided with the adequate level of protection. As a suggestion, the fellowship recipient could look at the coverage provided for local researchers holding a similar position.
- e. ERS is a not-for-profit organisation. ERS fellowships have no tax privileges. It is the responsibility of the fellowship recipient to pay any tax which may be levied upon him/her by the appropriate national authority.

## 9 Other fellowships and funding schemes

- a. ERS Fellowships cannot run concurrently with other fellowships or similar funding schemes received during the same period. ERS will not grant a Fellowship to an applicant who has been selected for another fellowship or funding scheme during the same period as the proposed training proposal submitted to ERS.
- b. Applicants may apply for funding from external sources; however, this funding should be used solely to help support financial and logistical requirements related to the work plan (purchase of equipment, Ethics Committee related fees etc.). This information must be declared in the online application, you will be required to include which organisation you applied to, the total amount of funding in EURO received and how/for what will it be used to cover in your work plan. Any change during the fellowship has to be reported to ERS immediately.

## 10 Reporting and publications

### 10.1 Fellowship reporting

- a. Both the fellowship recipient and the host supervisor are required to submit an end of project report and a completed questionnaire 3 months after the end of the fellowship in order to assess the project's progress. In case of significant deviation from the initial application that has not been notified to ERS, ERS reserves to request total or partial refunding.

### 10.2 Publications

- a. Publications in the official journals of the society, in particular in the European Respiratory Journal, are encouraged.
- b. Both the fellowship recipient and the host supervisor should acknowledge ERS support in any publication or outcome related to the fellowship. The ERS Fellowships should be acknowledged by including the following sentence in the acknowledgement section of the publication in the following way "We acknowledge the support of the European Respiratory Society Fellowship Clinical Training Fellowship 2023". Should the fellowship be cofounded with another organisation, the acknowledgement should have ERS and the cofounding partner.

**Any infringement of the ERS Clinical Training Fellowship Application Guidance 2023 conditions, rules and regulations can result in the withdrawal of an application from the selection process or the cancellation of a fellowship already granted.**

## 11 Clinical Training Fellowship schemes

ERS has established Clinical Training Fellowship scheme agreements with national respiratory societies and research organisations. In order to be considered for one of the below programmes, candidates must comply with the set requirements in terms of research scope, mobility and academic level. Candidates must include (via the online application) if they have a membership with one of our co-funding national society partners. ERS will conduct the eligibility check and will assess which candidates are suitable for which programmes.

N.B: Candidates applications may be submitted to the national societies or organisations mentioned here below for their review.

Fellowship programme	Candidate profile and or training area	Mobility requirements	Required university degree
ERS/ERN-Lung Joint Fellowship	Rare lung disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From Europe to Europe*</li> <li>- From overseas to Europe*</li> </ul> Mandatory return Home	Qualified clinicians or healthcare professionals currently employed in respiratory medical practice, with specific experience in rare respiratory disease

Table 5

### 11.1 ERS/ERN-Lung Joint Fellowship

- a. Candidates should be qualified clinicians or healthcare professionals currently employed in respiratory medical practice. They must possess appropriate scientific, medical and/or professional qualifications and experience.
- b. Candidates must have a specific experience in rare respiratory disease.
- c. The Home institution should be a Lung Centre (hospital or hospital department for respiratory diseases) with a specific interest and activity in the field of rare diseases of the respiratory system. Since this program aims at increasing the coverage of ERN-LUNG in Europe, institutions from all European countries are welcome except those where Members of ERN-LUNG or Affiliated Partners of ERN-LUNG have been accepted (actual list can be found on the ERN-LUNG website).
- d. A return to the home unit is mandatory upon fellowship completion.
- e. Applicants should hold an active ERS membership.