



2018 Call for Applications DPhil/PhD Transition Fellowships

Online submission available: **9th May 2018**

Submission deadline: **9th June 2018, noon (BST)**

EIT Health partners [Oxford University](#), [Coimbra University](#), [Leiden University](#), [Karolinska Institutet](#), [Sorbonne Université](#), [Université Grenoble Alpes](#) and the [University of Cologne](#) are collaborating on an exciting competitive funding scheme focused on closing the gap between completion of the doctoral thesis and obtaining seed funding for innovative ideas, products and services based on the research. We are now seeking applications from suitable DPhil/PhD candidates (based at these academic partners only), whose innovative work would benefit from such a pre-seed (spark) award.

Background

Barriers to innovation in the context of academic and research institutions include the lack of transferable entrepreneurship training, lack of real world commercial experience for doctoral level candidates and, importantly, funding to enable transition of ideas and innovative discoveries into commercially linked programs and ultimately new products and services. Oxford and Imperial successfully piloted this scheme in 2016, and have well-developed commercialization infrastructure, but recognize a growing unmet need in terms of appropriate mechanisms to support entrepreneurial activities amongst students and early career researchers, and particularly in developing very early stage commercial concepts - including commercial hypotheses without minimal initial data, to a point at which they can benefit from existing funding sources.



EIT Health is supported by the EIT,
a body of the European Union

Purpose

The aim of the DPhil/PhD Transition Fellowship Program is to address the innovation-funding gap between completion of the doctoral thesis and obtaining further seed funding. Applicants should be in their final year of submission and close to the award of their doctoral thesis. The funding is for the period post-thesis submission and pre-thesis defense. The most innovative propositions (pitches) presented will be selected and the respective DPhil/PhD candidates' host departments will be provided with a pre-seed fellowship award to fund accelerated development of discovery research in the applicants first post-doctoral year. The funding is not to be used for the continuation of DPhil/PhD doctoral programs or for conventional post-doctoral funding. The application must clearly meet the EIT Health objectives outlined on their website (<https://eit.europa.eu/eit-community/eit-health>).

Benefits

The application process is quick and simple. All eligible applicants will benefit from the opportunity to pitch and subsequently discuss their proposal with the selection panel, thus obtaining valuable feedback on their innovative proposition. The initial pitch will be in the form of a 5-minute presentation followed by 5-minute discussion at the applicant's home university. Shortlisted finalists will have an 1 in 2 chance of an award following the final stage 30 minute interview in Autumn 2018. This final stage will entail a longer application for completion in conjunction with the applicable Technology Transfer Office, a 15 minute pitch and 15 minutes questions. Applicants are directed to the following useful websites to prepare for the initial and (if applicable) also the subsequent second stage pitch:

Entrepreneurship:

<http://www.eship.ox.ac.uk/how-entrepreneurship-relevant-my-research>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5XC8LPSsnE&feature=youtu&list=PLtXf43N26ZiefSYP5o2GmMnN6V_WYkUe3
<http://www.eship.ox.ac.uk>

How to pitch?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyyPQmRBn0Q>

Successful applicants will receive EUR 10,000-EUR 25,000 towards the cost of accelerated development of their idea in their first post-doctoral year, to be used before the end of 2018. For example, funding can be used to further evaluate or translate research ideas, part-fund a salary or prepare a case for seed funding. The funding is not meant for the continuation of DPhil/PhD programs or for conventional postdoctoral funding (applicants requiring such funding are encouraged to explore other sources).

Awards will be made at three (3) levels:

Gold: EUR 25,000
Silver: EUR 15,000
Bronze: EUR 10,000

Funding can be used for appropriate entrepreneurship training, such as bootcamps. Recipients of fellowships will be further supported by the technology transfer and intellectual property offices of the universities involved for the duration of their fellowship. This will include help to assess the commercial potential of their results, to protect and manage the associated intellectual property, to identify the optimal route to commercialization (e.g. license to an existing company versus spinning out a new company), to define what potential commercial partners expect in terms of proof of concept for a given technology, to secure translational funding where needed to achieve proof of concept, and to identify, attract and secure potential partners/investors to further develop and commercialize new healthcare technologies.



Eligibility and Submission of Applications

Eligible applicants must be DPhil/PhD students enrolled at one of the partner Universities mentioned on the call, who are in their 3rd or 4th year of doctoral training in a field relevant to EIT Health (see www.eithealth.eu). This can include any medical, social, IT or technical research which is applicable to the objectives of EIT Health in promoting healthy living and active aging.

Proposals must be submitted using the online application form (<http://eithealth.wufoo.com/forms/z1ow7ego0o1pzg5/>) and must be received by no later than 12:00 noon on 9th June 2018.

Eligible proposals consists of 3 parts:

- a brief summary of the candidate's innovative research idea or discovery (max 250 words)
- a supporting letter or email from the DPhil/PhD supervisor detailing excellent progress towards thesis submission in 2018, date of completion of doctoral funding, strong support for the applicant, the proposal objectives and (if applicable) confirming approval from the head of department (The applicant must remain with the PhD group or team).
- a copy of the certificate obtained after completion of the quick, fun and easy on-line (UK government) training course on intellectual property (<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/blogs/iptutor/>).

Please note: Missing components will result in the application being rejected.

Evaluation and Timelines

Upon submission of the online application, all eligible applicants will be invited to attend a pitch session to present their innovative propositions in front of a selection panel in the form of a 5min pitch followed by a 5-min discussion time. The panel will consist of university faculty members, university intellectual property services, technology transfer offices, EIT Health and local funding partners and angel investors. Confidentiality agreements will be in place. The panel will shortlist up to 12 applicants in each location, who will be invited for a second and final pitch in Autumn.

At the final pitch session, candidates will be asked to re-pitch their 15min proposal followed by a 15min interview. The chance to be successful at this stage will be at least 1 in 2, and awards will be made available to the host departments of successful applicants as a lump sum beginning in October 2018.

Institute	First Round	Second Round
Oxford University	26/06/2018	12/09/2018
Coimbra University	05/07/ 2018	19/09/2018
Leiden University	03/07/2018	20/09/2018 .
Karolinska Institutet	14-15/06/2018	12/09/2018
Sorbonne Université	19/07/2018	27/09/2018
Université Grenoble Alpes	11/07/2018	31/09/2018
University of Cologne	20/07/2018	07/09/2018

Contact Information

Questions relating to this call for proposals only should be directed to:

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For more information on EIT Health please refer to the website (www.eithealth.eu).

About EIT Health

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Its goal is to sustainably advance the foundations of healthcare and thus promote the future conditions for healthier living and wellbeing of people across Europe.

EIT Health does this by leveraging the expertise of more than 140 leading organisations spanning key areas of healthcare such as Pharma, MedTech, Payers, Research Institutions and Universities. With a budget of 2 billion EUR over the next decade, EIT Health will purposefully invest in Europe's best entrepreneurial talents and creative minds to foster the development and commercialisation of smart product and service solutions in the health sector, addressing the challenges imposed by demographic change and ageing societies.

Headquartered in Munich (Germany), EIT Health has established six co-location centres :

- London (UK/Ireland)
- Stockholm (Scandinavia)
- Barcelona (Spain)
- Paris (France)
- Mannheim and Heidelberg (Germany/Switzerland)
- Rotterdam (Benelux),

whilst the EIT Health InnoStars ensure wider participation and outreach across Europe.

