



ECZM Specialist “in-training” Research Grant Program Call for proposals 2026

Grants are only available to candidates in ECZM residencies and alternative training programs. Residents can apply only during the course of their residency and must also complete the project during the course of their residency. The resident must substantially participate in developing and writing the proposal.

The resident must submit the application in their name as the Zoological Medicine Specialist-in-Training and include required details for the Diplomate Supervisor and any co-Investigator.

The total amount to be awarded is up to 3 grants of up to 3000 Euros each.

The grant proposal should be submitted to the ECZM Scientific Committee (jmalmsten@gmail.com) for review by November 1st, 2026. The resident will be informed if their application has been successful by December 31st, 2026.

Grantees are required to submit a progress report, and present the progress or results of the project during a webinar arranged by the Outreach Committee of the ECZM. Grantees are required to submit a final report within six months of completion, including a financial statement of grant expenditures. If the project is finished within one year after the grant has been rewarded, a final report can replace the progress report.

A resident cannot re-apply as primary investigator during the course of their training if they have been awarded the grant.

Progress Reports

The ECZM requires grantees to submit a Research Progress Report for review by the ECZM Scientific Committee by 1st of October of the year following the submission. Information to report includes accomplishments of the project; manuscripts and publications, and actual or planned challenges.

Please complete the ECZM Foundation Sponsored Research Annual Progress Report and submit it as a pdf to the secretary of the ECZM.

Please acknowledge funding by ECZM in all materials produced as a result of receiving this funding.

The 2026 grantees are required to present their progress reports, or final reports as oral presentations during a webinar organized by the ECZM Outreach Committee (preliminarily planned for Nov 4, 2027 at 6.00 PM CET). If unavailable, the grantee must notify the Scientific Committee (jmalmsten@gmail.com) by October 1st, 2027 in order to schedule a more suitable date and time.

Failure to submit the progress report will make the specialist-in-Training, and the diplomate supervisor, ineligible for applying for future ECZM research grants for a period of three years or until such report is received.

ECZM (European College of Zoological Medicine) Zoological Medicine Specialist “in-training” Research Grant Format and Writing Tips

The grant proposal can be relatively short, and a length of under 5 pages is recommended. Applicants are advised to follow the format below.

Introduction

- **Relevance** — Focus on including information that is relevant and essential to justify the importance of your study. By the end of the introduction, the reader should clearly understand the rationale for the research questions and research aims. Use the primary literature to support your premise, whenever possible. Construct your argument with concise points and avoid unnecessarily complex wording.
- **Impact** – It is important to convey the potential and expected impact of the work. Highly impactful research on common clinical issues will generally score better. Keep this in mind when establishing your case; try to focus on significant, prevalent, common, impactful research questions.

Hypothesis

- Proposed studies may be hypothesis driven or may be high quality observational studies. The rationale for conducting your study must be clear from the introduction.
- Specific aims are objectives that, when achieved, will test the hypotheses or will provide the data for descriptive analyses and scientifically sound conclusions. Keep the hypotheses and aims simple and concise.

Materials and Methods

- Please, demonstrate that a thorough literature review was performed and that the work is not replicating prior studies. The proposal should also clearly establish that the experimental methods and data collection are feasible within the proposed timeline. Preliminary data are recommended to strengthen the application in this respect.
- For clinical trials and clinical prospective observational studies, the authors should demonstrate that the appropriate sample size or caseload at the home institution can sustain this type of studies. Providing retrospective caseload information will be needed to validate the methodology. Authors could consider a multi-institutional study in case the caseload is too low to fulfill the objectives of the study.
- The college expects to fund projects with high educational value for its residents. Projects for which most of the laboratory work, data collection, analysis, and interpretation are performed elsewhere or outsourced to third party facilities or research teams will not achieve this goal and may be considered low priority for funding.
- As previously mentioned, preliminary data, pilot studies or retrospective data to support your goals or demonstrate feasibility will considerably strengthen the proposal. The study design should provide justifications for sample size based on expected effect size, and demonstrate appropriate randomization and blinding, as appropriate, and sound statistical analysis.
- For research involving live animals, the proposal must state the current ethical approval status of the project. Approval from the relevant animal ethics committee must be obtained, and documentation provided upon request, before funds are released. Applicants from institutions without an ethics committee should seek approval from an appropriate external committee. For studies involving client-owned animals, documented informed owner consent is also required.

Statistical Analysis

Consultation with a biostatistician is recommended prior at the designing stage of the study. Applicants from non-academic institutions should identify colleagues with statistical expertise to collaborate on their research.

Anticipated Outcome/Results

Provide anticipated results and potential pitfalls and drawbacks and explain how you may adapt your experimental design, data collection and analysis to account for these possible scenarios.

Budget

Please provide a detailed itemized budget for the research.