



ESMO Leadership and Career Development Award – FAQs

1. Who can apply?

ESMO members who are medical doctors aged 30–45 are eligible to apply. Individuals who have previously participated in the ESMO Leaders Generation/Leadership Programme or who have received an ESMO Research Fellowship are not eligible.

2. How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted through the [online application](#) system available on the ESMO website.

3. What documents are required?

Applicants must submit:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Project Proposal
- Motivation Letter
- Acceptance Letter from the host institution

All documents must be submitted in English and, where indicated, using the provided templates.

4. How are applications evaluated?

All applications undergo an initial eligibility and completeness check. Applications that are incomplete or do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

Eligible applications are reviewed by the Review Committee which includes members of the Leadership Development Committee as well as other experts.

Applications are assessed based on:

- Scientific and/or care excellence of the project
- Impact of the project at the local and/or global level
- Impact on the career development of the applicant and their institution

Awards are distributed globally, reflecting ESMO membership demographics.

5. What happens if my application is incomplete or does not meet the eligibility criteria?

Applications that are incomplete, submitted after the deadline, or that do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be evaluated.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required documents are submitted correctly and within the stated deadline.

6. What kind of project is eligible?

Projects must have either a clinical or translational research focus, or be a capacity-building project aimed at strengthening institutional infrastructure. The project duration is one year.



7. Where can I carry out the Award?

The Award project may be conducted at the applicant's own institution or at another institution worldwide. An acceptance letter from the host institution confirming support for the project is required.

8. How do I know if my application has been submitted successfully?

After completing the application, you must click the "Submit" button. A pop-up message will appear confirming that your application has been successfully submitted.

If you do not see this confirmation message or have any questions regarding your application, please contact fellowship@esmo.org.

9. When will I find out if my application has been successful?

Applicants will be notified of the results by the end of July 2026. Please refer to the webpage for confirmation of the notification date.

10. When should my project start?

The Award period is one year. Outcome notifications will be sent by end of July. The Award must commence before the 30 of April.

11. Is it mandatory to participate in all virtual modules and in-person workshops?

Yes. Participation in all eight virtual modules and both in-person workshops is mandatory. ESMO reserves the right to revoke the Award if any mandatory module or workshop is not completed.

12. How much funding is available?

The Award provides:

- EUR 60,000 for 100% protected time, or
- EUR 30,000 for 50% protected time.

Funding is paid in three equal instalments. The first instalment is transferred one month before the confirmed start date of the project. Subsequent payments are made upon receipt and validation of the required project reports.

13. Will I need to submit progress reports?

Yes. Awardees are required to submit a mid-term progress report and a final report at the end of the project period. Reports must be signed by both the Awardee and the designated mentor or host supervisor.

Submission and approval of the required reports are necessary for continued funding.

14. Does the Award cover travel or insurance?

Costs for visas, passports, airport taxes, and similar expenses are the responsibility of the Awardee and will not be reimbursed.



The Award does not cover medical care, insurance, taxes, or provide support for accompanying dependents. Please refer to the [Application Instructions and Terms and Conditions](#) for further details.

15. Is attendance at ESMO meetings required during the Award?

Yes. Awardees are required to attend two editions of the ESMO Annual Congress during the Award period.

In addition, Awardees must attend at least one other ESMO meeting, either within their geographical region (e.g. ESMO Asia Congress, TAT Asia Congress, ESMO Summit Africa, ESMO Summit Latin America, or ESMO Summit MENA) or a meeting relevant to their field of interest.

16. Will I have the opportunity to contribute to ESMO scientific projects or activities?

Awardees will be invited to contribute to ESMO scientific projects and activities during the Award period.

This may include participation in initiatives such as ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines, frameworks, guidance documents, or other scientific and educational projects.

Engagement in these activities forms part of the leadership development objectives of the Award.