STEP BY STEP GUIDE
For applying for an EHA Research Grant

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
Guidelines for the EHA Research Grant application

This document will guide you through every step of the process from applying to administering the EHA Research Grant. If you have any questions, please contact the Grants Manager at grants@ehaweb.org.

Contents
1. Introduction ..............................................................................................................................................2
2. Which category of EHA Research Grants is for me? ..............................................................................2
3. Practical: how to apply, timelines and what to expect ..............................................................................4
5. Practical information for your mentor .........................................................................................................18
6. Practical information for your institute .......................................................................................................19
7. Winning an EHA Research Grant .............................................................................................................20
8. Finishing your grant period .......................................................................................................................21

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION:

16 December 2020, noon (Amsterdam time)

Keep in mind that once you register, it may take up to two business days before you get access to the system. You are advised to plan accordingly as delays occasioned by late registration will not exempt you from the deadline. Registrations are approved within 2 business days between 8:00- 18:00 hrs Amsterdam time.
1. Introduction
EHA Research Grants support talented early career researchers in advancing their career, e.g. towards becoming the leader of a research group. The research must be lab-based: basic or translational research.

If you have ambition for advancing your career and you have the full support of your department and institute, please read further to understand what you can expect as an applicant and subsequently as a winner of an EHA Research Grant.

EHA’s Fellowships & Grants Committee oversees the selection of the winners, with the help of external reviewers and the support of the EHA office. For any questions regarding the funding scheme or the process, please contact the Talent Accelerator department at EHA at grants@ehaweb.org.

2. Which category of EHA Research Grants is for me?

Junior Research Grant: €50.000, - per year, for 3 years
For researchers doing basic research within 4 years of their PhD graduation. The month of graduation must be less than 4 years before the closing date of the application. Exceptions must be justified.

Advanced Research Grant: €80.000, - per year, for 2 years
For researchers doing basic research 4-8 years after their PhD graduation. This is the time interval between the month of graduation and the closing date of the application. Exceptions must be justified.

Physician Scientist Research Grant: €80.000, - per year, for 2 years
For physician scientists who are involved in patient care and:
- Are MD or equivalent
- Are within 4 years after PhD graduation OR MD graduation OR hematology training (or equivalent), whatever comes last at the closing date of the application. Exceptions must be justified.
- Have a proven track record in research by publications
- Must have at least 50% protected time for performing the research project, to be justified in the letter of support by the Head of Department where the research will be performed.
- It is highly preferred that the topic of research is related to the specialty in the clinic. (e.g. LAB: developing a mouse model in MPN, CLINIC: treating MPN)

IMPORTANT: If your project is in immunotherapy or in hemoglobinopathies, be sure to select the Topic-in-Focus version of your category! EHA has earmarked a grant for each Topic-in-Focus, which are Hemoglobinopathies, with a focus on Sickle Cell Disease, and Immunotherapy, with a focus on CAR-T, on top of the other grants.
EHA has a new policy regarding life events and eligibility:

- For each child/pregnancy, a mother can add 18 months to the time since graduation and a father can add 3 months
- Other life events, e.g. military service, disease or lab closure can also extend the period of eligibility and must be justified.

EHA’s policy on double awarding

EHA is guided by the concept of supporting as many young investigators/clinicians as possible in their career development. Therefore, double awarding is not allowed. Winning an award excludes the award winner from winning another award while receiving the first. Once the award has ended, you can apply for other opportunities. However, you cannot apply for an EHA mentoring program within 2 years of completing another EHA mentoring program (including TRTH). The thought behind this is that the effects of the mentorship on your research project (preclinical or clinical) have not yet had the chance to show. You should still be working on making that a success.

Should you be the current recipient of a Research Grant, the following applies: For the duration that you receive a Research Grant, you cannot apply for a travel grant for the EHA congress, as your budget for the grant already includes travel, registration and accommodation for the EHA congress. Nor can you apply for a mentoring program during the grant period. During a year, several calls will open for different opportunities.

The Bite-size Master class is excluded from this policy.
3. Practical: how to apply, timelines and what to expect

Illustration of the review and selection process

Applicants will be informed of the status of their application after every step. Keep in mind that once you register, it may take up to two business days before you get access to the system. You are advised to plan accordingly as delays occasioned by late registration will not exempt you from the deadline.
Before you start
In case your research will be performed at another institute, ensure that this host institute’s representatives have also read, understood and acknowledged EHA’s Terms and Conditions. It is equally important that your mentor, head of department and relevant institute acknowledge EHA’s terms and conditions at this phase. You are advised to contact them while preparing to ensure their support.

What to prepare
Prepare the documents you will need to upload as pdfs.

❖ Project proposal of maximum 8 pages (including figures, abstract and references). If you go over this limit, your application will be rendered ineligible and will not be reviewed.
❖ SWOT analysis of your research proposal and share your contingency plan. Consider the weaknesses, threats and if aims are interdependent, how you plan to deal with different scenarios. (Max 2 pages).
❖ Timeline of your research project (max 1 page).

and remember to ask your Mentor, Head of Department and Institute representative to prepare the following:

❖ Letter of Support from mentor on your institute’s letterhead, including description of the mentoring plan (max 2 pages).
❖ Head of Department letter, (max 1 page) on the institute’s letterhead, to include:
  ▪ a description of the institutional commitment and facilities to support the project
  ▪ a description of how the proposed project will fit into the current research of the department
  ▪ acceptance statement that possible overhead costs for this EHA grant will be paid for with other funds than the EHA grant
  ▪ acceptance statement that the Terms & Conditions as set forth on EHA’s website, are agreed to
  ▪ in case of a Physician Scientist Research Grant, a statement is required that explains that at least 50% protected time will be allocated for performing the research project
  ▪ signature by the chairperson of the department (max 1 page)

If the mentor and the head of the department are the same person, please provide one letter including information required in both points (max 3 pages).

❖ A signed Statement of Institutional Support for the application in which it agrees to the terms & conditions as set forth by EHA, signed by the Administrative Authority of the Institute (max 1 page)
FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

- Times New Roman, 11 pt., single space
- Combine these into 1 pdf and name it FirstName.LastName_ResearchProposal.pdf
  - Project proposal (max 8 pages, including figures, abstract and references)
  - SWOT analysis (max 2 pages)
  - Timeline (max 1 page)
  Scans not allowed for the project proposal, SWOT and timeline
- Each page should have a page number, the applicant’s name and project title in the header/footer

- Combine these into 1 pdf, include page numbers and name it FirstName.LastName_SupportLetters.pdf
  - Mentor Support letter (max 2 pages)
  - Head of Department letter (max 1 page)
  - Administrative Authority letter (max 1 page)
Creating a profile
Access the grantee portal and register yourself via [http://eha.fluxx.io](http://eha.fluxx.io). Should you be the recipient of an EHA Research Grants in the past 5 years, and want to apply for another grant, you already have an account that you can access by selecting ‘Reset or create password’. Just be sure to use the email address that EHA had on file. If you encounter any issues, please contact the Grants Managers at grants@ehaweb.org.
Fill in the eligibility quiz to ensure that a few requirements are met:

![Eligibility Quiz](image)

Should you not be eligible, the system will let you know. Make sure to adhere to the eligibility criteria, or you will be wasting a lot of time writing. Once the deadline passes, the grants managers will perform an in-depth eligibility check.

If you are compliant, you can register. Be sure to fill in the details accurately, as this registration cannot be edited later.

![EHA Grants Management Portal](image)

You should receive an email **within 2 business days** that has your username and instructions to reset your password. Use these credentials to access the application system.
Submitting your grant application

Now that you have a profile, you can apply for an EHA Research Grant. Select ‘Apply for Funding’ in the menu on the left and then click the green button in the main screen.
For verification purposes, please fill this in.
This must be the same person that signed the Administrative Authority Letter.

If the Mentor and Head of Department are the same person, please duplicate the details so all fields are filled.

Mandatory pdf upload of collated Support letters:

Combine these into 1 pdf and name it [FirstName.LastName_SupportLetters.pdf]
-Mentor Support letter (max 2 pages)
-Head of Department letter (max 1 page)
-Administrative Authority letter (max 1 page)

Select the + icon next to each required document. Once you have uploaded an attachment, it will be removed from the list of required documents and will appear in the Documents section below. You may upload additional attachments using the + icon available under the Request Documents section.

This must be the same person that signed the Administrative Authority Letter.

Click this + to upload the collated support letters.
Number of projects for which the applicant is PI (principal investigator)

Titles of these projects

Provide up to two individuals or Research Groups to exclude as external reviewers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reviewer Exclusion #1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reviewer Exclusion #2</td>
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**Education and Employment**

Position title (current position at institute)

Personal statement (optional)

Positions and Employment

You may indicate here who should NOT review your application.
**Out of Scope**

If you have any relevant reasons for being out of scope for the time since graduation requirements (e.g., maternity leave?), select 'yes'.

Reason(s) for being out of scope:

Please share the reasons.

Duration Out of Scope:

Please indicate the duration of out of scope. E.g., if you had 2 children since relevant graduation and you are their mother, 2x18=36 months. If you are the father, 2x3=6 months. If your lab was flooded by a hurricane and it caused a 6-month delay, fill in 6 months.

To complete this section, please upload relevant documentation here.

**Other Experience**

Other experience and professional memberships:

Honors and Awards:

**Scientific Proposal Overview**

Make sure you select the appropriate category. If your research is in a Topic-in-Focus, please select that in combination with your category. Topics-in-Focus for this round are Immunotherapy and Hemoglobinopathies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Project Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physician Scientists' Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic-in-Focus Junior Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic-in-Focus Advanced Research Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic-in-Focus Physician Scientists' Research Grant</td>
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Characters left for field: 4000
Although the system will allow 4000 characters, during the eligibility check, the office will check that this summary does not exceed 500 words. The Fellowships & Grants committee shares the opinion with the research community that researchers should be able to communicate their science adequately within whichever constraints are provided.

Click here to fill in each budget line for what you want to use this EHA grant for. A pop up will open (see next page in this guide).

Click here to fill in each budget line for other funding. “Completed” means you were awarded the funding. “Pending” means you have applied for this funding, but do not know the outcome yet at the time of your application to EHA.
Mandatory items. For every year that you have the EHA grant, count 2000-euro max per EHA congress attendance (includes travel, registration, accommodation).
How to access and edit an existing application
You can re-access your application and make changes until the deadline. Seek ‘Pending Requests’ in the grantee portal for access. Once the deadline has passed, you will have ‘read only’ access. See page 8 of this guide for the snapshot.

Questions and concerns regarding the application process
If you have any questions or problems with submitting the application, please contact the EHA Talent Accelerator Department at grants@ehaweb.org or call during office hours: +31(0)70 3020 099.

Deadline and Eligibility check
After the deadline has passed, the EHA office will start checking whether your application is complete and whether it meets the eligibility criteria. Applications that are not complete (signatures missing, no budget, etc.) or do not meet the criteria for eligibility (not working at an academic institute, etc.) will not be reviewed.

You will be notified if your application did not qualify for review. This decision is final.

Preliminary Review
The Fellowships & Grants Committee will perform a preliminary review of the applications and decide which applications will proceed to the next stage- an in-depth review by external reviewers. You will be notified whether your application succeeded this first round of review. Other than the notification, there will be no further feedback at this stage.

External Review
At least 3 external reviewers will be reviewing your project in detail to assist the Fellowships & Grants Committee in the selection procedure. In your application, you will have indicated a maximum of 2 research groups and/or PI’s that you wish to exclude from reviewing your application (e.g. a direct competitor) and this information will be considered.
The external reviewers will score your application based on the following parameters:

**PROJECT**
1. Significance and impact of the proposal
2. Novelty of the proposal
3. Methodological approach of the proposal
4. Feasibility of the proposal
5. Host institute/scientific environment where the research will be conducted

**INVESTIGATOR**
6. Commitment to research
7. Track record and international standing

**BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**
8. Are the budgeted activities clearly listed and assigned? Is the cost estimate of resources/activities researched and substantiated?

**OVERALL EVALUATION**
9. To what extent does the proposed research address important challenges? To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches)? To what extent is the proposed research high risk/high gain? Can the project be completed in the proposed time frame?

This external review will produce feedback for the committee as well as feedback for you as the applicant. Irrespective of the outcome of your application, you will receive this feedback after the winners are announced. It is hoped that this feedback will provide you with some guidance on how you could improve your application or research plan. Please note that there will be no further correspondence regarding this feedback. Based on the external review feedback, the Fellowships & Grants Committee will decide who to invite for an interview and you will be notified of the results.

**Interview meeting**
If you are selected for an interview, this will be conducted in May 2021 via videoconference. The exact dates and time will be communicated with those whose application will be externally reviewed.

During the interview, you will be expected to present your proposal to the Fellowships & Grants Committee in 5 minutes, followed by a question and answer session with the committee. You are advised to spend some time rehearsing your presentation to give a quality performance at the interview meeting.

**What EHA funds and what EHA does not fund**

**EHA funds:**
The funds may be used to provide support for salary and small items of equipment, supplies and/or travel, if this is necessary for advancing the research project. Traveling to and attending the EHA congress twice during the project period should be part of the budget. These research grants are intended for preclinical research (lab research). In any case, all expenses must be in accordance with the approved budget.
EHA does not fund:

- Overhead costs
- Expenses that are not accompanied by an accurate and sound justification in the application template
- Costs that have not been approved (in the approved original budget or if changes have been requested, in an approved amendment)
- Costs for research performed completely and solely by others, not by the applicant (merely overseeing the work while absent in the lab is not considered performing the work). In which case, the one doing the actual work should apply.
- Costs that are covered by other funds, even if new funding is acquired during the project, making (parts of) the EHA grant redundant (any acquired funding must be communicated within 30 days after awarding to grants@ehaweb.org), detailing the amount, which items the funding has been approved for and how this impacts the overall funding of the project
- An excessive travel scheme for attending (scientific) meetings, including stay in excessively expensive hotels (5 stars and above) and business/first class flights
- Costs that are not directly relevant to the research

5. Practical information for your mentor

Your support for the application

Your mentee is applying for an EHA Research Grant to conduct research in your center. Please prepare:

1. Letter of Support from you on your institute’s letterhead, including description of the mentoring plan (max 2 pages).

2. Head of Department letter, on the institute’s letterhead, to include:
   a. a description of the institutional commitment and facilities to support the project
   b. a description of how the proposed project will fit into the current research of the department
   c. acceptance statement that possible overhead costs for this EHA grant will be paid for with other funds than the EHA grant
   d. acceptance statement that the Terms & Conditions as set forth on EHA’s website, are agreed to
   e. in case of a Physician Scientist Research Grant, a statement is required that explains what protected time will be allocated for performing the research project. Please note that they must have at least 50% protected time in order to be eligible for an EHA grant.
   f. signature by the chairperson of the department (max 2 pages)

If you are the mentor as well as the head of the department, please provide one letter including information required in point 1 and 2 (max 3 pages).
6. Practical information for your institute

Your support for the application

A researcher at your institute is applying for an EHA Research Grant to support their research. We invite you to scrutinize the Terms & Conditions. If they are not acceptable to the institute, the applicant should be informed and asked to withdraw their application. Otherwise, please provide a letter of support agreeing to EHA’s Terms and Conditions. This Letter must be on the Institute’s Letter Head and signed off by you as the authorized Institute’s Administrative Representative. The name of the institute and the details of the administrative authority must be accurately filled in, as this information will be used for the funding agreement.

Administering the grants

If your applicant wins the research grant, you will be asked for bank details to be included in the funding agreement and for you to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the institute. Please see 7.

Relevant to know

The EHA Research grant is awarded to the applicant to further their career. The institute administers the grant.

EHA will not cover/fund overhead costs. These costs must be covered by other funds.
7. Winning an EHA Research Grant

If you are selected as a winner, you will receive a complimentary registration for the next EHA annual congress. You will receive your award during the opening ceremony, and you will be invited to pertinent social events. In your budget you should include the costs for travel and accommodation to the EHA Congress.

Funding Agreement

As a winner, you will provide necessary information for the funding agreement, e.g. bank details, project start date (note that you are required to start your project within one year of being awarded), etc. You and your institute will be required to sign the funding agreement, which refers to the Terms & Conditions that will have been read and approved during the application phase. Withholding this approval can result in ineligibility of the applicant and the withdrawal of the award.

Obligations

Once the funding agreement has been signed by all parties, EHA will transfer the first installment to the institute (according to the disbursement schedule in the agreement).

An interim Scientific and Financial Report is expected halfway through the project. Upon receipt and favorable review of these reports, the next installment of the funding will be paid. The templates for these reports will be provided upon winning. The scientific reports get reviewed by the Fellowships & Grants.

Any publication arising from the work funded by EHA, must acknowledge EHA funding as stated in the Terms & Conditions.
The winner is responsible for collecting the financial reports from the institute and ensuring EHA receives the documents. Any changes requested by the winner e.g. different start date or re-allocation of funds, must be submitted via the Amendment request procedure.

Amendments

Any deviations from the approved project scope or budget are to be formally requested before being implemented. Please see Terms & Conditions or ask the Grants Manager via grants@ehaweb.org.

8. Finishing your grant period

Final reports must be submitted within 6 weeks of the project end date. Both financial and scientific reports are required. The financial report must be audited & signed off by an external auditor and the institute’s financial head. Reporting templates will be made available via the grantee portal.

Questions? Contact the Grants managers in the Talent Accelerator department at EHA via grants@ehaweb.org