

The background of the slide features a light gray world map with a network of nodes and connecting lines overlaid on it, representing a global network. The text is centered on this background.


HERMES

HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK
since 1997

Catalyzing Cross-Border Discovery

The 2026 HERMES Research Mobility Seed Grants:
A Guide for Scholars and PhD Candidates.

Bridging Knowledge Across 20+ Leading Global Institutions



Established in 1997 at the European Parliament, the HERMES network unites over 20 globally oriented universities to foster academic collaboration and research excellence.

The Seed Grant Initiative



Funding: €1,500 lump-sum per project to support mobility-related expenses (travel, accommodation).



Mission: To catalyze international scholarly collaboration, generate concrete research outputs, and deepen network connectivity.



Target Audiences: Available across three distinct academic career stages.

Selecting Your Research Mobility Track

	Track 1: PhD Candidates	Track 2: Early Career Scholars	Track 3: Established Scholars
Career Stage	Enrolled HERMES PhD Student	Within 8 years of PhD completion	Tenured or equivalent senior position
Minimum Stay	10 business days	7–8 business days	4–5 business days
Primary Objective	Advance dissertation research	Consolidate independent agenda	Generate high-impact network initiatives
Target Publication	Peer-reviewed journals	Academic Journal Guide (AJG)	Leading outlets (AJG 3/4/4*)
Grant Amount	€1,500 lump-sum seed funding		

Track 1: Advancing Doctoral Research for PhD Candidates



Eligibility & Host Requirements

- Must be enrolled at a HERMES member university.
- Host supervisor must provide a Letter of Support confirming feasibility, resources, and supervision/mentoring arrangements.
- Openness to exploring co-supervision between member institutions.



Core Objective (10 Days)

Mobility must be integral to the dissertation research.

Focus areas: data access, methods training, archival work, lab collaboration, or co-authorship development.



Expected Outcomes

Deliverables: Virtual presentation, brief written report, and short video.

Target: Peer-reviewed academic journals appropriate to the doctoral project stage.

Track 2: Consolidating Independent Agendas for Early Career Scholars



Eligibility & Host Requirements

Must be within 8 years of PhD completion holding a research-active position.

Host academic contact must provide a Letter of Support confirming expertise relevance, resource access, and collaborative activities.



Core Objective (7-8 Days)

Mobility must be integral to the applicant's independent research agenda.

Focus areas: manuscript development, data collection/analysis, methodological collaboration, or joint proposal preparation.



Expected Outcomes

Deliverables: Virtual presentation, brief written report, and short video.

Target: Peer-reviewed publication pathway oriented toward the Academic Journal Guide (AJG).

Track 3: Driving High-Impact Collaboration for Established Scholars



Eligibility & Host Requirements

Must hold a tenured or equivalent senior academic position with a strong track record.

Host contact's Letter of Support must confirm the strategic relevance of the collaboration for both institutions.



Core Objective (4-5 Days)

Mobility must generate strategic, network-level benefits for HERMES.

Focus areas: joint research agendas, multi-institution collaboration, consortium building, workshops, or masterclasses.

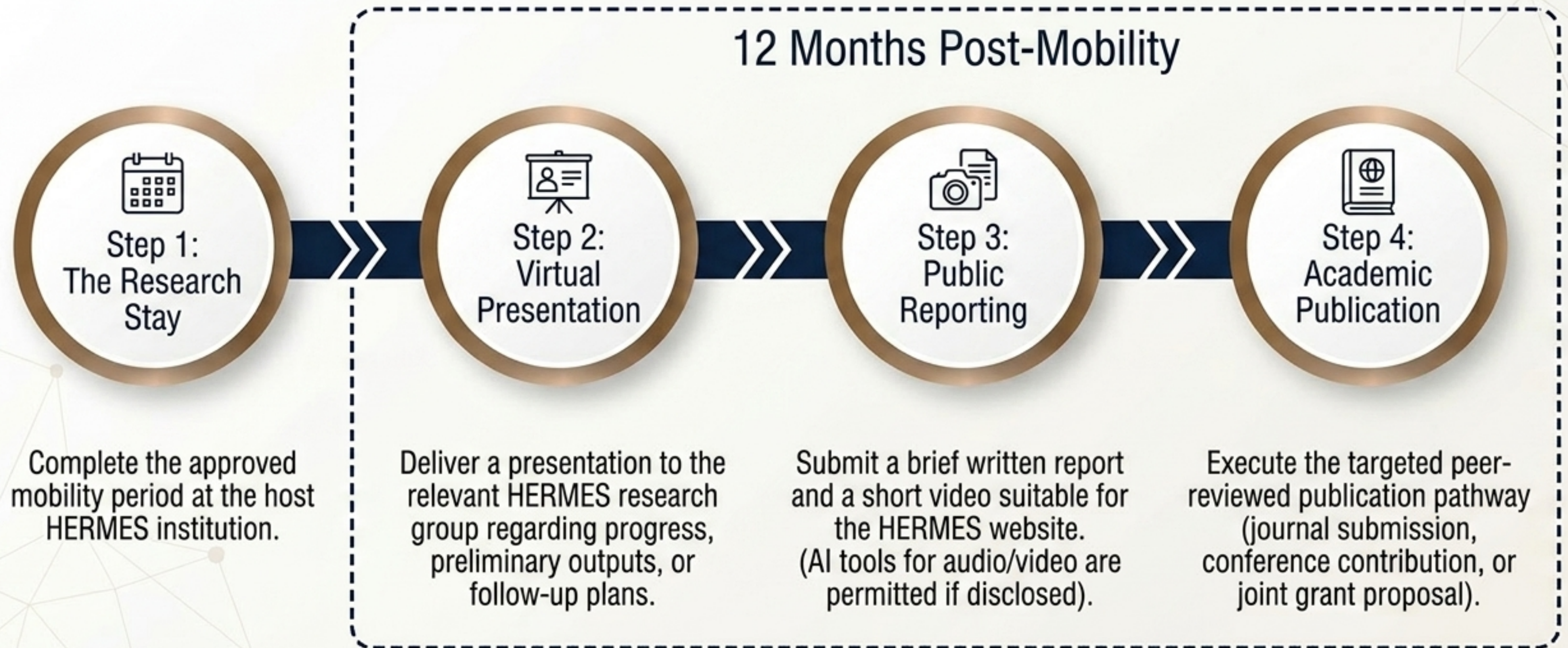


Expected Outcomes

Deliverables: Virtual presentation, brief written report, and short video.

Target: Joint manuscripts targeting leading outlets (AJG 3/4/4*), or submitted/advanced joint grant proposals.

The 12-Month Impact and Dissemination Cycle



Evaluation Criteria: What the Strategic Board Prioritizes



Track Record & Profile

Demonstrated scholarly standing, academic performance, and preparedness, evaluated relative to the applicant's specific career stage.



Project Quality

Originality of the proposal, clarity of objectives, methodological rigor, and potential scholarly impact.



Feasibility

Realism of the proposed work plan and the likelihood of producing concrete outputs within the required 12-month timeframe.



Collaborative Value

Strength of the host collaboration, capacity-building potential, and overall contribution to HERMES network connectivity.

2026 Application Logistics and Timeline

May
11

Call for
Applications Opens

June
10

Submission
Deadline



Grant Disbursement (€1,500)

- 50% disbursed upon award (prior to mobility)
- 50% disbursed after submission of the required report



Submission Checklist

Email application to: elodie.thevenet@em-strasbourg.eu

- Official Application Template
- CV
- Project Description
- Host Letter of Support
- Home Letter of Support
- Indicative Budget