

HERMES

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Call for HERMES Research Mobility Seed Grants: Early Career Scholars

Purpose and rationale:

The HERMES University Network invites applications for Research Mobility Seed Grants that enable **early career scholars to undertake a short research stay at another HERMES member institution**. The program is designed to strengthen international scholarly collaboration, support the consolidation of independent research agendas, and generate concrete research outputs that enhance academic visibility and deepen HERMES research connectivity.

Who can apply:

Applicants must:

- be an **early career scholar at a HERMES member university**, defined as being **within eight (8) years of PhD completion** at the time of application;
- hold a **research-active position** that allows them to conduct independent research;
- secure a **host academic contact** at the receiving HERMES institution who confirms the feasibility of the proposed research stay;
- demonstrate that the proposed mobility is **integral to the applicant's independent research agenda** (e.g., manuscript development, data collection or analysis, methodological collaboration, or preparation of joint research proposals).

Funding and duration:

- Grant amount: **€1,500** (lump-sum seed funding) per project
- Minimum duration: **7 to 8 business days at the host institution**

Eligible costs (indicative):

The grant is intended to support mobility-related expenses (e.g., travel and local accommodation). Applicants should provide an indicative budget. Costs not directly related to the mobility period are typically not supported.

Host requirements and mobility expectations:

The host academic contact must provide a short **letter of support** confirming:

- relevance of the host's expertise to the applicant's research agenda;
- feasibility of the proposed research activities during the mobility period;
- access to relevant academic resources (e.g., data, facilities, seminars, research teams);
- planned collaborative activities during the stay.

Deliverables and dissemination:

Within 12 months of completing the mobility, funded applicants are expected to:

1. deliver a **virtual presentation** to the relevant HERMES research group presenting the research outputs (e.g., draft or submitted manuscript, case study, conference contribution, or grant proposal outline); and
2. submit a **brief written report and a short video** suitable for publication on the HERMES website. The use of AI tools (e.g., for audio/podcast-style formats) is permitted, provided this is clearly disclosed.

Publication expectation: Funded projects are expected to result in a **peer-reviewed publication pathway**, with journal targeting oriented toward the **Academic Journal Guide (AJG)**.

Selection criteria:

Applicants are assessed on:

- **Research track record (relative to career stage):** publications, conference presentations, academic awards, and other indicators of scholarly activity appropriate to the applicant's career stage.
- **Project quality and originality:** originality of the proposal, clarity of objectives, methodological

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rigor, and potential scholarly impact.

- **Feasibility and expected outputs:** realism of the work plan and likelihood of producing concrete outputs within 12 months.
- **Collaborative and network value:** strength of the collaboration with the host institution and the contribution to HERMES research connectivity.

Review process:

Applications are reviewed by the HERMES Strategic Board. Each application will be evaluated by at least two reviewers. Where disciplinary expertise is not available within the Board, external academic reviewers may be consulted.

Grant disbursement:

- **50% upon award** (prior to the mobility period)
- **50% after submission of the required report¹**

Timeline (for mobility in 2026):

- Call opens: **May 11**
- Submission deadline: **June 10**
(Exact notification date may be announced after the submission deadline)

How to apply and contact:

- Submit the application (using the provided template) by email to: elodie.thevenet@em-strasbourg.eu, including a CV, project description, host letter of support, home letter of support, and indicative budget. For any questions, please use the same contact.

We encourage early career scholars to take advantage of this opportunity to strengthen their independent research agendas and to actively contribute to the dynamism of the HERMES research community through visible, sustained cross-institutional collaboration.

The HERMES Bureau

¹ Template provided by HERMES