

HERMES

HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

since 1997

Call for HERMES Research Mobility Seed Grants: Established Scholars

Purpose and rationale:

The HERMES University Network invites applications for Research Mobility Seed Grants that enable **established scholars to undertake a short research stay at another HERMES member institution**. This track is designed to stimulate **high-impact research collaboration**, support the development of joint research agendas, and generate visible scholarly activities that strengthen HERMES research cooperation over the medium and long term.

Who can apply:

Applicants must:

- be an **established scholar at a HERMES member university**, typically holding a tenured or equivalent senior academic position (or equivalent seniority in non-tenure systems);
- demonstrate a **strong research track record** appropriate to seniority, including evidence of sustained scholarly contributions;
- secure a **host academic contact** at another HERMES member institution who confirms the feasibility and relevance of the proposed research stay;
- propose a mobility project that is **integral to a broader research agenda**, with clear potential to generate **strategic, network-level benefits** for HERMES (e.g., joint research agendas, multi-institution collaboration, co-authored outputs, or joint funding initiatives).

Funding and duration:

- Grant amount: **€1,500** (lump-sum seed funding) per project
- Duration: **4 to 5 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:

- **strategic relevance** of the proposed collaboration for both institutions;
- **feasibility** of the planned activities within a 4–5 business day stay;
- access to relevant **academic and institutional resources** (e.g., research teams, seminars);
- planned **collaborative or network-oriented activities** during the visit (e.g., manuscript or grant development meetings, workshops, masterclasses, consortium building).

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 (or, where appropriate, to a broader HERMES audience) reporting on outcomes and follow-up plans; 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.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to pursue **high-impact outputs**, such as:

- a joint manuscript with a defined authorship and timeline;
- a submitted or advanced joint grant proposal;
- a network activity (e.g., workshop, masterclass, thematic seminar) that benefits the wider HERMES community.

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Publication expectation: Funded projects are expected to result in a **peer-reviewed publication pathway** (submission/R&R/advanced draft). Established scholars should target **leading outlets (AJG 3/4/4*)**, as appropriate to the field.

Selection criteria:

Applicants are assessed on:

- **Scholarly standing and research leadership:** evidence of sustained research excellence and leadership appropriate to seniority.
- **Project quality and strategic relevance:** clarity of objectives, originality, and relevance of the proposed collaboration for advancing joint or network-level research agendas.
- **Feasibility and implementation plan:** realism of the proposed activities within the planned duration and likelihood of concrete follow-up outcomes.
- **Network and capacity-building value:** potential to strengthen HERMES research collaborations, support capacity-building (including mentoring, training activities, or the development of joint doctoral supervision arrangements), and enhance network visibility.

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 invite established scholars to use this opportunity to initiate or consolidate strategic collaborations and to play an active role in structuring and strengthening HERMES research activities across the network.

The HERMES Bureau

¹ Template provided by HERMES