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Call for HERMES Research Mobility Seed Grants: PhD Candidates

Purpose and rationale:

The HERMES University Network invites applications for *Research Mobility Seed Grants* that enable **PhD candidates to undertake a short research stay at another HERMES member institution**. The program is designed to catalyze international scholarly collaboration, strengthen doctoral training, and generate concrete research outputs that advance the doctoral project and deepen HERMES research connectivity.

Who can apply:

Applicants must:

- be enrolled as a **PhD candidate at a HERMES member university** at the time of application and during the mobility period;
- secure a **host academic supervisor/mentor** at the receiving HERMES institution who confirms feasibility and supervision;
- demonstrate that the proposed mobility is **integral to the dissertation research** (e.g., data access, methods training, archival work, lab collaboration, co-authorship development).

Funding and duration:

- Grant amount: **€1,500** (lump-sum seed funding) per project
- Minimum duration: **10 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 supervisor/mentor must provide a short **letter of support** confirming:

- alignment between the host's expertise and the applicant's research plan,
- access to relevant resources (data, facilities, seminars),
- supervision/mentoring arrangements during the stay,
- where relevant, openness to exploring co-supervision arrangements between HERMES member institutions as a means of strengthening long-term research collaboration.

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 on progress and preliminary outputs (e.g., working paper, dissertation chapter, conference submission, case study); 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.

Where publication is envisaged, outputs are expected to target **peer-reviewed academic journals**, as appropriate to the stage of the doctoral project.

Selection criteria:

Applicants are assessed on:

- **Applicant profile and trajectory:** academic performance and preparedness for the proposed activities.
- **Project quality and feasibility:** clarity of objectives, appropriateness of methods, potential impact of the research, and feasibility within the proposed stay.

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- **Scholarly and network value:** potential contribution to the dissertation, quality of the collaboration plan, and added value for HERMES 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 PhD candidates to take advantage of this opportunity to advance their doctoral research and to contribute to the development of sustained research collaboration within the HERMES University Network.

The HERMES Bureau

¹ Template provided by HERMES