

**EFSD** European Foundation  
for the Study of Diabetes

## **Funding Diabetes Research in Europe:**

### **EFSD Grant and Fellowship Programme Portfolio 2021**

**Information for Potential EFSD Applicants**

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This document contains an overview of the current EFSD Programme Portfolio 2021\* and some basic information on EFSD rules and procedures to give potential EFSD applicants an indication if EFSD is a suitable funding source for their diabetes research.

Please refer to our brochure “Funding Diabetes Research – EFSD Impact Report” to meet some EFSD officials and recipients and for more information about the mission and impact of EFSD, as well as some advice on how to put together the best possible application.

*\*July, 2021*

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## About EFSD

- Non-profit foundation created by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)
- Funds grants and fellowships for basic and clinical diabetes research in Europe and associated countries
- Offers a Travel Fellowship Programme for young investigators worldwide
- Funding is available throughout the year through various Programmes
- Has already committed over 100 million Euros to European diabetes research

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) was created by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in order to support more actively diabetes research in Europe and to serve even more effectively the goals of EASD, which are: to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge, and to facilitate its application. The EFSD began its work in 2000 and has become a significant European funding agency for diabetes research.

EFSD is a non-profit foundation, which seeks to support the highest quality research in Europe to find a cure for all types of diabetes and associated complications and to prevent their onset. EFSD aims to co-operate with other government and non-government agencies in order to increase funding in European diabetes research as a means of achieving its goals. Through its various activities and programmes, the Foundation also strives to enhance awareness in Europe of the severity and magnitude of this devastating disease. It is the ambition of the Board to develop EFSD as the main European funding agency for diabetes research.

The Foundation is closely related to EASD; it is governed exclusively by the Board of EASD, which itself is under the close supervision of the General Assembly. The Foundation operates on a strictly non-profit basis under the control of the relevant authorities in Germany.

EFSD receives generous donations from industry as well as other non-for-profit organisations which, together with standalone funding initiatives, has resulted in over 100 million Euro being raised for diabetes research in Europe.

All applications are subject to rigorous peer review by a fully independent panel of leading experts in the field, and awards are based on scientific merit. Applications from investigators working in non-profit organisations are welcome from Europe or any associated country. Travel Fellowships are open to young investigators worldwide. Applicants must be EASD members.

Further information is available on the EFSD website:

[www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org](http://www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org)

# The “Five Ws and One H” for EFSD Applicants

## Who?

Most EFSD Programmes are for **basic and clinical diabetes researchers** working at a non-profit institution in Europe and associated countries (a detailed country list can be found on the EFSD webpage [General Regulations](#)). Travel Fellowships are open to young investigators worldwide. Applicants must be **EASD members**.

Exact eligibility criteria for each Programme are described in the RFAs (request for applications) which are published on the EFSD webpage for the Programmes currently accepting applications.

## What?

EFSD offers various Grant and Fellowship Programmes, as well as a career development award.

EFSD Grant Programmes include Programmes that accept applications within any area of basic or clinical diabetes research and others focused on a certain field of diabetes research, e.g., type 1 diabetes, new targets for type 2 diabetes, digitalisation in diabetes care, “multi-system challenges” in diabetes.

EFSD Programmes for young investigators (i.e. postdoctoral fellows, young clinical researchers, and young independent researchers) include young investigator research awards, Rising Star Fellowships, short-term travel Fellowships for postdoctoral fellows and PhD students worldwide, a 5-year career development award for basic and clinical researchers.

## When?

EFSD offers funding throughout the year. However, each Programme has a designated, usually once-a-year deadline.

## Where?

Programmes are announced approximately 3 - 4 months before their application deadline on the EFSD webpage [www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org](http://www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org).

Programmes currently accepting applications are also included in the monthly EASD newsletters for EASD members.

Studies must be performed at the investigator's place of work based in Europe or an associated country. Travel Fellowships can also be used for a stay outside of Europe.

## Why?

EFSD is a non-profit foundation, which seeks to encourage and support the highest quality diabetes research in Europe to find a cure for all types of diabetes and associated complications and to prevent their onset. EFSD also aims to promote the next generation of leading diabetes researchers and strives to enhance awareness in Europe of the severity and magnitude of this devastating disease and the need for more research to improve the health and wellbeing of people with diabetes.

## How much?

Funding amounts depend on the Programme and range from Euro 8,000 for travel Fellowships to up to Euro 500,000 for clinical research grants. The typical amount for an EFSD research grant is Euro 100,000.

# How to Apply for EFSD Funding

- 1) Become an EASD member <https://www.easd.org/membership.html> (if you are not already).

Submit an application for a suitable Programme as one complete PDF email attachment to [foundation@easd.org](mailto:foundation@easd.org).

## How to Find a Suitable EFSD Programme

The proposed project needs to fall into the Programme's focus area, or the application has little chance to get funded, even though the project might be highly innovative and the application well-written. In addition, applicants have to fulfill the eligibility criteria specified in the Programme's announcement and EFSD rules and regulations. Therefore, applicants should make sure that they apply for an EFSD Programme suitable for them and their project.

Specific information about an EFSD Programme's focus, eligibility criteria, funding amounts, expected timeline and more can be found in its announcement (or request for application) which is published 3 – 4 months before its deadline on the EFSD webpage [www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org](http://www.EuropeanDiabetesFoundation.org).

**To give potential EFSD applicants an indication what EFSD may have to offer to them, following an overview of the EFSD Programme portfolio 2021\* with brief descriptions of the who, what, when and how much of each Programme.**

Please note, most EFSD Programmes run for several years with consistent deadlines and general focus areas, however, there might be changes in the specific focus areas and/or eligibility criteria, so it is essential that applicants always refer to the most current announcement. **In addition, EFSD always strives to develop and offer new programmes, so it is worth monitoring its announcements regularly.**

Please note, you are welcome to apply for several EFSD Programmes at the same time but you may only hold one single EFSD award at any given time. Some EFSD Programmes for young investigators are exempt from this regulation.

Keep in mind, even though the more focused EFSD Programmes often award a smaller number of grants than the two big, open Programmes, they also receive usually a smaller number of applications. The average success rate of the different Programmes over the last 3 years reflects this as well.

*\*July, 2021*

# Overview EFSD Grant Programmes 2021

## All Fields of Diabetes Research

### EFSD/Novo Nordisk A/S Programme for Diabetes Research in Europe 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **grants for high quality projects from all fields of diabetes research including both basic and clinical research.**

Review criteria are significance, approach, innovation, investigator, scientific environment, budget and feasibility, contribution towards a larger research project (if applicable). More detailed information is provided in the Programme announcement.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 1 February 2021

#### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects  
and up to Euro 250,000 for clinical research projects\*.

\*The definition of clinical research is a study performed in vivo, in human individuals with focus on clinically relevant and diabetes-related outcomes.

Studies forming part of a larger project or with larger funding requirements than stated above, particularly if this relates to a clinical research project, will also be considered for funding but this will need to be well justified in the application.

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 8.2%

## EFSD/Lilly European Diabetes Research Programme 2021

### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **grants for high quality projects within any area of basic or clinical diabetes research**.

Review criteria are significance, approach, innovation, investigator, scientific environment, budget and feasibility, contribution towards a larger research project (if applicable). More detailed information is provided in the Programme announcement.

### When:

2021 deadline: 1 September 2021

### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 100,000.

Studies forming part of a larger project or with larger funding requirements than stated above, particularly if this relates to a clinical research project, will also be considered for funding but this will need to be well justified in the application.

\*The definition of clinical research is a study performed in vivo, in human individuals with focus on clinically relevant and diabetes-related outcomes.

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 14.2%



## Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes

### EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme on "Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes" 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **grants for innovative basic and clinical research on the inter-organ crosstalk and related pathophysiology in diabetes and its complications.**

The Programme is intended to stimulate and accelerate European research on the interrelation and crosstalk of different organs e.g. heart, kidney, pancreas, gut, liver and brain and related pathophysiology in diabetes and its complications and the impact of therapeutic interventions for this complex condition.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 6 April 2021

#### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects  
and up to Euro 300,000 for clinical research projects\*.

\*The definition of clinical research is a study performed in vivo, in human individuals with focus on clinically relevant and diabetes-related outcomes.

Please note that projects involving clinical trials will not be accepted for this programme.

Studies forming part of a larger project will also be considered for funding but this will need to be well justified in the application.

## Precision Diabetes Medicine

### EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Precision Diabetes Medicine Award Programme 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme will accept applications based on scientific quality, innovation potential and a clear translational focus; bringing basic knowledge to use at the patient level in terms of e.g. disease prognosis, treatment prediction or patient stratification.

The award is expected to accelerate important fields of translational research and to improve the speed of innovation implementation in diabetes care.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 17 May 2021

#### How much:

Three grants will be awarded.

Awards (to both clinicians and basic scientists) will be made in a total amount of Danish Krone (DKK) 1 awardee 2 million DKK (~ €268,000) and 2 runners-up 500,000 DKK (~ €67,000).

# Type 1 Diabetes Research

## EFSD/JDRF/Lilly European Programme in Type 1 Diabetes Research 2021

### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **grants for high quality basic biomedical and clinical research applicable to type 1 diabetes** including treatment and monitoring strategies.

Review criteria are significance, approach, innovation, investigator, scientific environment, budget and feasibility, contribution towards a larger research project (if applicable). More detailed information is provided in the Programme announcement.

### When:

2021 deadline: 1 July 2021

### How much:

*Grants are up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects  
and up to Euro 250,000 for clinical research projects\*.*

*\*The definition of clinical research is a study performed in vivo, in human individuals with focus on clinically relevant and diabetes-related outcomes.*

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 24.4%

## Anniversary Fund

**EFSD Anniversary Fund Programme 2021  
supported by Boehringer Ingelheim, Lilly and Novo Nordisk**

### **Who:**

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

### **What or Programme Focus:**

This Programme joins in the celebration of the 100-Year Anniversary of the discovery of insulin with the aim at supporting the most talented investigators in the fields of diabetes research in Europe. Projects may be basic, translational and/or clinical research on diabetes or its comorbidities and complications.

### **When:**

2021 deadline: 16 August 2021

### **How much:**

Grants are up to Euro 200,000

# EXPLORING AND APPLYING NEW STRATEGIES IN DIABETES

## EFSD and Lilly EXPLORING AND APPLYING NEW STRATEGIES IN DIABETES (EXPAND) Programme 2021

### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

### What or Programme Focus:

The Programme aims to assess with dedicated research projects, potential strategies that could be implemented in Europe and rolled out in low-and middle-income countries to favour the improvement of quality of care for all people living with diabetes. Research applications in collaboration with DAC countries will be considered.

This Programme will accept applications within any area of clinical diabetes research with emphasis on:

- Prevention of diabetes mellitus,
- Diagnosis/management of all forms of diabetes
- Diagnosis/management/prevention of diabetes-related microvascular complications
- Diagnosis/management/prevention of diabetes-related macrovascular complications

More detailed information is provided in the Programme announcement.

### When:

2021 deadline: 2 November 2021

### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 150,000.

Average success rate of applicants 2020: 28,6%.

## Digitalisation in Diabetes Care

### EFSD and EUDF Digitalisation in Diabetes Care Research Grant Programme 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This programme is intended to stimulate and accelerate European research aimed at optimising the use of technology, digital health and innovative treatments to support self-care by people with diabetes, to prevent complications and support quality of life.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 15 November 2021

#### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 40,000.

## New Targets for Type 2 Diabetes

**EFSD European Research Programme on “New Targets for Diabetes or Obesity-related Metabolic Diseases” 2021 supported by an educational research grant from MSD**

### Who:

Investigators from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries.

### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **grants for research projects focusing on the identification and molecular understanding of new targets for the treatment of type 2 diabetes or obesity-related metabolic diseases.**

Proposals may include but are not limited to:

- Mechanisms to induce “browning of adipose tissue”
- New targets for improving skeletal muscle or adipose tissue insulin resistance
- Bile acid biology as it relates to metabolic disease. This includes actions relating to glucose metabolism, lipid metabolism, energy balance and related diseases including diabetes, atherosclerosis and obesity
- The role of lipid droplets in the etiology of metabolic fatty liver disease
- Mechanisms of glucose-dependent insulin and glucagon secretion

### When:

2021 deadline: 1 December 2021

### How much:

Grants are up to Euro 100,000.

Studies forming part of a larger project or with larger funding requirements than stated above, particularly if this relates to a clinical research project, will also be considered for funding but this will need to be well justified in the application.

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 5.7%.

# Overview EFSD Programmes for Young Investigators 2021

## Young Investigator Research Awards

### EFSD/Lilly Young Investigator Research Award Programme 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from a non-profit institution from Europe or associated countries having received their highest degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) no more than five (basic scientist) or seven years (clinician) before 1 January of the year of the award and who do not hold a permanent appointment. For clinicians holding more than one qualifying degree (e.g. MD PhD) or with a clinical specialist degree/board certification, the time since the first degree may not exceed ten years before 1 January of the year of the award. Time periods spent on maternity/paternity leave, long-term illness or other exceptional circumstances will be taken into account.

Applicants should have demonstrated their ability in the field of diabetes research.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **awards for innovative research projects in the fields of diabetes and its complications for promising young investigators.**

#### When:

202 deadline: 15 February 2021

#### How much:

Young Investigator awards are Euro 50,000.

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 17.7%.



## Rising Star Fellowship Programme

### EASD Rising Star Symposium and EFSD Rising Star Fellowship Programme 2021 supported by Novo Nordisk

#### Who:

Investigators from a non-profit institution from Europe or associated countries having received their highest degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) no more than five (basic scientist) or seven years (clinician) before 1 January of the year of the award and who do not hold a permanent appointment. For clinicians holding more than one qualifying degree (e.g. MD PhD) or with a clinical specialist degree/board certification, the time since the first degree may not exceed ten years before 1 January of the year of the award. Time periods spent on maternity/paternity leave, long-term illness or other exceptional circumstances will be taken into account.

Applicants should have demonstrated their ability in the field of diabetes research. Preference will be given to individuals who have consistently pursued a well-defined and innovative research line, leading to publications in high impact peer reviewed journals.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme aims to identify promising and innovative young researchers who are developing their research activities in Europe.

Selected candidates receive a **research fellowship for an innovative research project in the field of diabetes**, and also have the opportunity to **present** an overview of their past and ongoing research activities **during a multidisciplinary research symposium at the EASD Annual Meeting**.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 15 February 2021

#### How much:

Research fellowship are Euro 30,000.

The award also covers travel expenses, hotel and registration costs for the EASD Annual Meeting in the year of the award and presentation.

Average success rate of applicants 2018 – 2020: 26.4%.

## Career Development Awards

### EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Programme 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from a non-profit institution from Europe or associated countries having received their highest academic degree (PhD, MD) not more than 10 years before the start of the award but not yet holding a tenured academic Faculty appointment. For clinicians holding more than one qualifying degree (e.g. MD PhD) or with a clinical specialist degree/board certification, the time since the first degree may not exceed 12 years before the start of the award. Time periods spent on maternity/paternity leave, military service, long-term illness or other exceptional circumstances will be taken into account.

Candidates should already have a track record of excellence and achievement in their chosen area of diabetes research, and should provide clear evidence of their intention to pursue an academic career in Europe.

#### What or Programme Focus:

**Career-development awards over 5 years** (subject to satisfactory progress) **for outstanding clinical and basic scientists in the transition from postdoctoral/clinical fellow to their first tenured faculty position in European diabetes research.**

This Programme aims to identify outstanding clinical and basic scientists in European diabetes research at a critical stage in their career, support them in their transition to a tenured academic appointment in diabetes research in Europe and foster their development into the leaders of tomorrow.

#### When:

2021 deadline: 1 March 2021

#### How much:

Future Leaders Awards are DKK 5 million (~ Euro 670,000)\*.

\*to be paid in 5 annual installments of DKK 1 million (~ Euro 130,000).

## Travel Fellowships for PhD Students and Postdocs Worldwide

### EFSD Albert Renold Travel Fellowship Programme 2021

#### Who:

Investigators from a non-profit institution worldwide, currently either in a PhD programme or having received their highest degree (PhD, MD, DMD, DVM, or equivalent) no more than five (basic scientist) or seven years (clinician) before 1 January in the year the Fellowship is awarded. For clinicians holding more than one qualifying degree (e.g. MD PhD) or with a clinical specialist degree/board certification, the time since the first degree may not exceed ten years before 1 January in the year the Fellowship is awarded. Fellows may not hold a permanent appointment.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme offers **travel fellowships** for scientists and clinicians to travel and stay at another institution **for up to 3 months in order to learn specific techniques or clinical skills required for the advancement of their diabetes research project** and not available at their home institution.

The home and/or the host institution must be based in Europe or a Europe-associated country, and each must be in a different country.

#### When:

Postponed until further notice.

#### How much:

Travel Fellowship are up to Euro 8,000.

## Travel Research Fellowships to and from Japan

### EFSD and Japan Diabetes Society (JDS) Reciprocal Travel Research Fellowship Programme 2021

#### Who:

Scientists or clinicians who are working in a postdoctoral position in Europe or an associated country or Japan.

#### What or Programme Focus:

This Programme **offers travel fellowships** for scientists or clinicians working in Europe or its associated countries to carry out a **scientific project** in a recognised research institution **in Japan** and scientists or clinicians working in Japan to carry out a scientific project in a recognised research institution **in Europe** or its associated countries. The scientific projects can be one to twelve months in length with some extra time allowed to complete a language course.

#### When:

Postponed until further notice.

#### How much:

Travel Fellowships are up to Euro 50,000 for the applicants from Europe or 5 million Japanese Yen for the applicants from Japan.

The budget may include items such as salaries, travel, sustenance and consumables.

# Some EFSD Keywords

## Confidentiality

EFSD receives proposals in confidence and is responsible for protecting the confidentiality of their contents. For this purpose, EFSD has a policy in place that prohibits individuals involved in the handling and review of the proposals from purposefully disclosing confidential EFSD or applicant information to people outside of the EFSD review process and requires them to act with due care in order to avoid the inadvertent disclosure of confidential information. Additional information on EFSD's privacy policy is published on the EFSD webpage.

## EASD

EFSD is closely related to EASD and it is governed exclusively by the Board of EASD, which itself is under the close supervision of the General Assembly. EFSD applicants must be members of EASD.

## Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria depend on the Programme and are specified in the Programme request for application.

## Industry Involvement

EFSD receives donations from pharmaceutical companies to fund diabetes research. However, these companies have no involvement or influence on the review process and funding decision and EFSD never passes any confidential (i.e. unpublished) scientific data or the applicants' contact information on to these companies. If a company wishes to contact an applicant directly, EFSD seeks written consent from the applicant who has the right to decline without any effect on his/her funding. Any IP rights that might result from EFSD-funded research remains with the investigators and their institutions.

## Multiple Applications and Awards

Applicants may apply to several EFSD Programmes at the same time but may only hold one single EFSD award at any time (exceptions: Rising Stars Fellowships, Mentorship Programme, Albert Renold Travel Fellowships).

## Non-European Investigators

EFSD Grant Programmes and most EFSD Programmes for young investigators offer funding for researchers working in Europe and associated countries (a detailed country list can be found on the EFSD webpage under [general regulations](#)), while the EFSD Albert Renold Travel Fellowship Programme is open to young investigators worldwide. For this Programme, the home and/or the host institution must be based in Europe or a Europe-associated country, and each must be in a different country. In addition, EFSD offers a Reciprocal Travel Research Fellowship Programme with the Japan Diabetes Society that offers fellowships for Japanese postdocs to do research in Europe and vice versa.

## Peer Review Process

All EFSD applications are subject to peer review by a fully independent panel of leading experts. Applications may undergo pre-review (or triage). In this event, any application rejected at this stage will not be subject to a complete scientific review and no feedback report will be provided to the applicant. Applications that undergo full scientific review will upon request receive written feedback. More information on the EFSD review process is provided in the EFSD brochure "[Funding Diabetes Research - EFSD Impact Report](#)".

## Request for Application (RFA)

A Request for Application (RFA), or announcement, for each EFSD Programme is published 3 – 4 months before its deadline on the EFSD webpage. The RFA contains information about the Programme's focus, eligibility criteria, funding amounts, expected timeline and more. **Information provided here is for information only; please read the new/active RFA for precise updated details.**

## More Information Can Be Found Here

**EFSD webpage:** <http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/>

- Information about EFSD
- Announcements for Programmes currently accepting applications
- EFSD general rules and regulations
- Information for EFSD applicants and recipients

EASD members can sign up for a monthly EASD **newsletter**.

**Email:** [foundation@easd.org](mailto:foundation@easd.org)

