Funding Diabetes Research in Europe

EFSD Grant and Fellowship Programme Portfolio 2020

Information for Potential EFSD Applicants

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)
Rheindorfer Weg 3
40591 Düsseldorf - Germany
Phone: +49-211-758 469 0
Email: foundation@easd.org
www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org
This document contains an overview of the current EFSD Programme Portfolio 2020* 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, 2020

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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
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 Mentorship Programme for young clinical diabetologists and 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. macrovascular complications of diabetes, type 1 diabetes, new targets for type 2 diabetes, pilot grants for innovative measurement of diabetes outcomes, “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 and a Future Leaders Mentorship Programme for Clinical Diabetologists.

When

EFSD offers funding throughout the year. However, each Programme has a designated, usually once-a-year deadline.
Programmes are announced approximately 3 - 4 months before their application deadline on the EFSD webpage 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.

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.

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](https://www.easd.org/membership.html) (if you are not already).

2) Submit an application for a suitable Programme in the EFSD online application system accessible through [MyEASD](https://www.easd.org/membership.html).

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 2020* 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, 2020
Overview EFSD Grant Programmes 2020

All Fields of Diabetes Research

EFSD/Novo Nordisk A/S Programme for Diabetes Research in Europe 2020

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

2020 deadline: 3 February 2020

How much

Grants are up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects
and up to Euro 400,000 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 2017 – 2019: 8.4%
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

2020 deadline: 1 September 2020

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 2017 – 2019: 12.8%
Measurement of Diabetes Outcomes

**EFSD and Sanofi European Pilot Research Grants for Innovative Measurement of Diabetes Outcomes 2020**

**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 help develop innovative means to document and validate novel parameters indicative of long-term benefits for patients with diabetes. It will fund successful *pilot grant proposals for innovative definition and measurement of outcomes in diabetes*.

Given the growing evidence of the complexity and multifaceted aspects of diabetes, HbA$_1c$ might not be the only “metric” of relevance to assess the possibility for a treatment strategy to provide long term benefit and improved quality of life. Proposals may include, but need not be limited to, the validation of behavioural, biological, and disease management metrics to complement HbA$_1c$ in defining the quality of the long-term management of diabetes.

**When**

2020 deadline: 02 March 2020

**How much**

Pilot 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.
Macrovascular Complications of Diabetes

**EFSD and Sanofi European Diabetes Research Programme in Macrovascular Complications 2020**

**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 or clinical mechanistic studies on macrovascular complications of diabetes. For the basic studies, innovative studies including use of advanced stem cell approaches will be particularly welcome whereas studies involving classical animal models of macrovascular disease will not be considered for funding.

**When**

2020 deadline: 15 March 2020

**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.
Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes

EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme on "Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes" 2020

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

2020 deadline: 1 April 2020

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.
Type 1 Diabetes Research

EFSD/JDRF/Lilly European Programme in Type 1 Diabetes Research 2020

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

2020 deadline: 1 July 2020

How much

Grants are up to Euro 100,000 for basic research projects and up to Euro 400,000 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 2017 – 2019: 27.2%
EFSD European Research Programme on New Targets for Type 2 Diabetes supported by an educational research grant from MSD 2020

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.

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

2020 deadline: 1 December 2020

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 2017 – 2019: 6.7%
EXPLORING AND APPLYING NEW STRATEGIES IN DIABETES

EFSD and Lilly
EXPLORING AND APPLYING NEW STRATEGIES IN DIABETES
(EXPAND) Programme 2020

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, including lifestyle and educational interventions
- Diagnosis/management of all forms of diabetes mellitus
- Diagnosis/prevention of diabetes-related microvascular complications
- Diagnosis/prevention of diabetes-related macrovascular complication

More detailed information is provided in the Programme announcement.

When

2020 deadline: 2 November 2020

How much

The grant is funded each year in an amount up to Euro 150,000.
Overview EFSD Programmes for Young Investigators 2020

Young Investigator Research Awards

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<tr>
<th>EFSD and Lilly EXPLORING AND APPLYING NEW STRATEGIES IN DIABETES (EXPAND) Programme 2020</th>
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**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**

2020 deadline: 17 February 2020

**How much**

Young Investigator awards are Euro 50,000.

Average success rate of applicants 2017 – 2019: 23.7%
Rising Star Fellowship Programme

EASD Rising Star Symposium and EFSD Rising Star Fellowship Programme 2020 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

2020 deadline: 17 February 2020

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 2017 – 2019: 27.3%
Career Development Awards

EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Programme 2020

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

2020 deadline: 2 March 2020

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).
Mentorship Programme for Future Leader Clinical Diabetologists

EFSD Future Leaders Mentorship Programme for Clinical Diabetologists 2020 supported by an unrestricted educational grant from AstraZeneca

Who

Clinical academic diabetologists, resident and working in a European country or associated state, who are clinically qualified in medicine and who would usually be expected to have between 3 and 10 years of experience in their field at a relatively senior level but normally without a tenured academic faculty position.

Applicants must have the goal of becoming a national leader in clinical diabetes or its complications in their country of residence. They must further demonstrate a clear interest in education and clinical research.

What or Programme focus

The major goal of this Mentorship Programme is to identify and promote the advancement of the next generation of leading clinical diabetologists in Europe. The 3 year EFSD Future Leader Awards provide a unique opportunity for clinical diabetologists to take part in a broad range of educational and training opportunities centred around a clinical research project, with leading European clinical diabetologists serving as personal mentors.

The Mentorship Programme will help award recipients to develop into leaders by refining their skills in the three cardinal areas of clinical diabetes, research and communication, thereby keeping them in the field of diabetes and facilitating their appointment to senior academic positions at major European institutions.

When

2020 deadline: 30 June 2020

How much

Mentorship awards are USD 25,000 per year for a total of USD 75,000 and consist of a contribution towards direct costs of the research project (USD 15,000 per year) and a personal allowance to cover travel and other costs for diabetes meetings (incl. EASD Annual Meeting and ADA Annual Meeting), educational courses and visits to the mentor’s institution (USD 10,000 per year).

Note: this award may not be used to contribute to the Mentee’s salary.
Travel Fellowships for PhD Students and Postdocs Worldwide

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


How much

Travel Fellowship are up to Euro 8,000.
**Travel Research Fellowships to and from Japan**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EFSD and Japan Diabetes Society (JDS) Reciprocal Travel Research Fellowship Programme 2020</th>
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</table>

### 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 to 2021

### 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