



Call For Applicants – Catalyst Europe 2020

Terms & Conditions



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INTRODUCTION

Catalyst is a principled methodology developed by MIT for needs identification and opportunity development, and an organizational model that fosters a vibrant multi-stakeholder community. The Catalyst mission is to increase the potential that biomedical research will lead to products that address unmet health care needs.

A consortium composed of European academic, industry and hospital partners have created an organizational structure to implement and run the Catalyst methodology in Europe, in collaboration with MIT. The program that will run on 2020 is named Catalyst Europe 2020, a program supported by EIT Health and included in the EIT Health Campus Pillar portfolio.

The consortium (from now on “the Organizer” or “the Consortium”) is composed of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU), Uniklinikum Erlangen (UKER), University of Debrecen (UniDeb), Hospital Clínico San Carlos (HCSC), Fundación Mvision, SERMAS, Medical Valley, Oxford University and GE Healthcare.

CATALYST EUROPE 2020

Catalyst Europe 2020 is a hands-on program for PhD students, postdocs and clinicians (**Fellows**, or participants) who would like to accelerate the impact of biomedical research. The Fellows are guided by experts in the academic, business and clinical domain (**Faculty**). In this immersive experience, participants (Fellows guided by Faculty) team up and identify and evaluate unmet medical needs, build multi-professional teams to design solutions and plan research projects that show strong potential for healthcare impact in collaboration with industry and hospitals. Descriptions:

Faculty – (the trainers) Professionals (from academic, clinical or business background) with a strong experience and interest in health innovation, who will share their expertise with fellows, mentor them, and teach lessons and run workshops during the program.

Fellows – (the participants) PhD students, postdocs and clinicians who would like to accelerate the impact of biomedical research. They form an innovation cohort during the program.

Every stage of the Catalyst program involves regularly scheduled sessions that **Fellows** attend together with a diverse group of **Faculty**, who help guide the process of project evolution. **Fellows** are expected to work with one another, insofar as possible, to develop projects and project ideas and to prepare for the sessions.

The general precept of these sessions (and the program as a whole) is to promote entrepreneurial thinking (e.g. is there a real need? is there a plausible way to address it and to get the solution out of the lab into widespread use?), innovation (e.g. if successful is there a significant advantage over existing technologies?; does it have a potential for significant impact?), and acceleration (by focusing on work that de-risks the idea). Finally, intrinsic to the process is the development of many professional skills, such as oral communication, critical analysis, defending an idea, professional networking, etc.

The sessions depend heavily on oral communication and presentations in order to provide a forum that allows for rapid feedback and guidance and to facilitate rapid iterative development. Sessions generally include a combination of presentations by Fellows, group discussions including Faculty, and workshops including ones with external experts (e.g. on pitch presentations, IP protection, funding models).

Catalyst does not support fellows on the translation of their current research projects. Fellows join Catalyst to discover new opportunities for research with high translational and impact potential and prepare themselves to execute new research projects.

Deliverables Catalyst Europe 2020: Fellows will develop and present research project plans in teams.

Fellows are required to attend in person weekly meetings in one of the Catalyst Hubs (see section "LOCATION-HUBS") and clinical immersions and intensifications (see section "Trips – Clinical immersions and intensifications").

LOCATIONS - HUBS

In 2020, there are **3 Catalyst Europe Hubs**: Debrecen, Erlangen, and Madrid. Every week, Fellows assigned to each hub meet in each location simultaneously to attend the weekly sessions. Universities in each location (UPM in Madrid, FAU in Erlangen and UniDeb in Debrecen) provide rooms to hold the sessions. Weekly sessions run simultaneously in all the locations; the hubs are connected via videoconference.

Selected fellows will be assigned to one Hub.

Fellows are not required to live close to the Hubs or in the countries where the Hubs are located, as long as they are able to attend weekly sessions in person.

Regarding the **Debrecen Hub**, a requirement for the fellows is to be able to devote at least two full working days on a weekly average to be present in person at the university (including the day of session), hosted by a relevant lab, department or institute of the university in order to pursue activities related to Catalyst Europe working together with Faculty, fellows and the hosting unit.

In addition to the weekly meetings, all Fellows will meet in person to attend together several activities (clinical immersion and intensifications) that will be held in Boston, Debrecen, Erlangen, and Madrid, and that will last between 1 and 3 weeks each. The duration of the program is 28 weeks, including one session per week (except during a 3-week summer break), and 5 intensifications/clinical immersion during the program.

CALENDAR

Application and Admission process – Jan 9th to March 31st 2020

The call for applications opens on January 9th, 2020.

Admitted participants will be announced on March 31st.

More information in the section “HOW TO APPLY AND ADMISSION PROCESS”, below.

Enrollment process – from April 1st to 21st , 2020

Admitted candidates will become Fellows for the Catalyst Europe 2020 program. Fellows will sign the enrollment agreement by April 21st 2020.

Fellows assigned to the Debrecen Hub will formalize a Catalyst Europe enrollment agreement with University of Debrecen (UniDeb).

Fellows assigned to the Erlangen Hub will formalize a Catalyst Europe enrollment agreement with Friederich Alexander University (FAU).

Fellows assigned to the Madrid Hub will formalize a Catalyst Europe enrollment agreement with Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM).

The Organizer reserves the right to select another candidate in case of failure to sign the enrollment agreement before the deadline.

Program – from May 5th to November 13th.

Sessions:

Weekly sessions will run on Tuesdays from 3pm CET to 6pm CET.

Location for weekly sessions are the universities in each Hub: Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU) in Erlangen, Germany; University of Debrecen (UniDeb) in Debrecen, Hungary; and Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) in Madrid, Spain - they will all have rooms available. Fellows will attend the sessions at the university in the Hub they have been assigned to. During sessions, Fellows will connect with the other Hubs via videoconference.

Trips – Clinical immersions and intensifications:

Fellows are required to participate in the following activities:

- May 12th to 28th, 2020: Clinical Immersion in Madrid
- June 22nd to 26th, 2020: Intensification in Boston
- September 7th to 11th, 2020: Intensification in Erlangen
- October 5th to 9th: Intensification in Boston
- November 9th to 13th: Intensification and closing in Debrecen

HOW TO APPLY AND ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications Open – Jan 9th, 2020

Candidates shall apply to the Catalyst Europe 2020 program by filling the application form <https://fs24.formsite.com/MITLinQ/2dgyschbz1/index.html>

Candidates will indicate their preferred Hub in the application form.

The Organizer reserves the right to not accept applications that do not include the Supervisor Support Document duly filled and signed, unless they justify the possibility to participate in the Catalyst program without the approval of a supervisor.

Applications Deadline – February 14th, 2020

Applications will close on February 14th, 2020, 12:59pm GMT+1 Europe (the “Application Period”). Applications submitted outside the Application Period will not be eligible.

The Organizer reserves the right to extend the Application Period. Any change will be published on the Catalyst Europe website and on all its communication channels.

Pre-Selection announcement – March 5th 2019

Applications will be reviewed by an Admissions Committee, responsible for pre-selection. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted by March 5th and will be invited to participate in Selection Interviews.

Candidates will confirm their participation to the Selection Interviews by March 9th.

Interviews – March 24th, 2020

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in Selection Interviews in Madrid on March 24th. The specific location in Madrid, as well as the details and timetable of activities that will be conducted that day, will be communicated within the invitation to participate.

Travel expenses will be covered for candidates traveling from outside the “Comunidad de Madrid”. Considerations:

Travel expenses reimbursement will be paid by GE Healthcare to candidates 60 days after presentation and audit of invoices sent by each Candidate.

Only flight/train ticket costs will be reimbursed, except if the candidate can justify that there is not a flights/trains combination that allow them to travel to Madrid early in the morning and travel back within the same day, and as a consequence they need to pay lodging. In that case, only flight/train ticket and lodging costs will be reimbursed.

The maximum amount that will be reimbursed for flight/train round trip tickets is: 100€ for travels within Spain. For travels from countries other than Spain: 200€ for distances below 1.500Km. And 300€ for distances above 1.500Km. Distances calculated according to European Erasmus - Distance calculator (<https://bit.ly/35uG5ju>).

The maximum amount that will be reimbursed for lodging is 75€.

Invoices and an expense excel sheet must be sent by the Candidate within the format that GE Healthcare determine, otherwise it will not be possible the reimbursement.

Selection announcement – March 31st 2020

Fellows admitted to Catalyst Europe 2020 will be announced by March 31st, 2020.

Selected candidates will be informed about the Hub that they will be assigned to.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates' profile:

- Candidates living in EU, from any EU region (not limited to Catalyst Hubs)
- Work permit in EU.

- Academic degree: PhD students, postdocs, clinical profiles (residents, fellows, attendings).
- Any domain area linked to health technology: life sciences, engineering, biomedical engineering, data science. Any clinical domain.

Requirements:

- Availability to dedicate 15 hours/week during regular weekly activities of Catalyst Europe program – including Sessions, personal work and teamwork (personal and team work in a flexible schedule format). For the Clinical Immersion and Intensifications, availability to work full time.
- Availability to attend in person:
 - o Weekly sessions. Time and Locations details described in “Calendar” and “Locations-Hubs” sections.
 - o Activities described in the section “Trips – Clinical Immersion and Intensifications”
- Compatibility with current job, training or activity. Candidates will have to demonstrate compatibility with their current activities. This includes:
 - o If the candidate has a full-time job (or is currently committed to a full-time activity) and is willing to reduce their current activity dedication, the candidate will be required to present a “Letter of Support” signed from their current supervisor. The candidate will upload the Letter of Support in the Application Form.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A selection committee composed of representatives from the Consortium organizations will select the Catalyst Europe 2020 Fellows, after the admission process, based on one main and most important criteria:

- Candidate’s potential to bring value to the innovation cohort and contribute to the cohort main objectives and duties: validate unmet needs, propose technological solutions and develop research project plans.

This evaluation is conducted holistically with the objective to recruit the best possible group of fellows and their potential to work in teams. Some sub-criteria that may be used is described below, but none of the following items will be used in isolation to determine whether a candidate should be selected or not:

- Alignment with Catalyst mission and philosophy.
- Diversity: background (e.g. engineers, scientists, clinicians), geographical (3 Fellows assigned to each Hub) and gender diversity.
- Relevant academic background and professional experience that shows potential to add value to the Catalyst process.
- Alignment with Focus Areas defined for the current Catalyst Europe 2020 cohort.
- Demonstrated ability to differentiate between validated facts and assumptions, and to ideate a process to validate assumptions.
- High level of English.

The selection committee is composed of experts in evaluating high performance teams and decisions will be made based on expert opinion rather than in quantifiable metrics.

COMPENSATION AND CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP

Remuneration for Madrid and Erlangen Hubs:

For Fellows that are not formally employed by FAU or UPM:

Fellows will receive an economic compensation from the university in the Hub they have been assigned to (FAU or UPM, depending on the Hub), if those fellows are not formally employed by the university. The gross amount available to remunerate each fellow is 11.500€ (from now on "Gross Amount"). The final net amount that the fellow will receive may vary depending on the contractual modality that will support the remuneration. The contractual modality will be agreed between fellow and the university, depending on the current fiscal status of the fellow and internal rules of the university, which may cause a withholding of a partial amount. The contractual modality will not be an employment agreement but a stipend in the form of scholarship or other sort of allowances. Exceptions may be considered in each case, when mutually agreed, for instance, splitting the amount in two portions: a stipend and a complementary amount for travel expenses.

Payments: each university (FAU or UPM) will decide the number of installments, which may vary from one single payment in the middle of the program, to 7 monthly payments. This will be communicated when formalizing the enrollment agreement to the program.

For Fellows that are formally employed by FAU or UPM:

If the fellow is already formally employed by UPM or FAU, the process through which the Gross Amount is either allocated to the fellow department or paid directly to the fellow, will be agreed between the fellow, his/her university and the Catalyst coordinator in the university.

The Organizers reserve the right to withdraw funding in case that fellows do not actively participate in the program as intended.

Remuneration for Debrecen Hub:

Fellows will receive an economic compensation from the university for 6,5 months period. While the taxation, social contribution issues may vary according to contractual modality, the final net amount for each fellow would be set at the same level (all the fellows will have the same remuneration). The final net amount will not exceed the 7.000€.

The contractual modality will be agreed between fellow and the university depending on various circumstances (e.g. employment by UniDeb, the current fiscal status of the fellow, internal rules of the university). The contractual modality will be either some kind of employment agreement or a form of scholarship. Exceptions may be considered in case mutually agreed.

The Organizers reserve the right to withdraw funding in case that Fellows do not actively participate in the program as intended.

Travel Expenses (for the 3 Hubs):

Additionally, each fellow will have the right to reimburse their travel expenses up to 5.300€. These travel expenses need to be related with the trips planned in section “CALENDAR” (Trips - Intensifications and clinical immersions). The instructions to reimburse these costs will be given when formalizing the enrollment agreement.

PARTICIPATION AND APPLICATION DETAILS

The application process is free of charge. No payment is necessary to fill in the entry form.

By applying, participants guarantee the Organizer that the information contained is accurate and complete, and that by submitting the application to the Organizer they are not and will not be violating any contract or third party rights including any patents, copyrights, trade secrets, proprietary or confidential information, trademarks, or rights to privacy including personal data.

The Organizer reserves the right to reject any entry that, in its judgment, violates the spirit of the guidelines, processes and rules outlined in current Terms&Conditions.

Each fellow will be assigned to one Hub. Fellows are expected to attend in person the weekly Sessions in their Hub as well as Clinical Immersion and Intensifications.

Fellows are expected to dedicate an average of 15 hours/week to the regular weekly activities of the program, including Sessions, personal work and teamwork - personal and team work in a flexible schedule format. For the Clinical Immersion and Intensifications, Fellows are expected to work full time.

Participants will receive a certificate of participation in Catalyst Europe 2020, only if they have attended at least 90% of the activities.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Meetings and activities of the Catalyst Europe Program are by invitation only, are not public, and are conducted with the understanding that fellows and faculty (together referred to as “participants”) abide by confidentiality guidelines as they seek and/or provide mentoring. The purpose of these guidelines is to enable the greatest amount of cross-fertilization of ideas while protecting intellectual property, minimizing the risk of premature disclosure of ideas and inventions, and ensuring that advice given to and by participants is, and can be perceived as, fair and objective. Consequently, each participant (faculty and fellows) will review and sign confidentiality agreements to:

- Not make claims to other participants’ intellectual property;
- Maintain privileged information in confidence;
- Not use privileged information for personal gain;
- Notify staff of any potential conflict of interest; and
- Recuse themselves from participating in any activity where they may have or appear to have a conflict of interest

In the course of participation, participants have access to certain information about other participants' projects and plans. Some, but not all of this information, is confidential. Participants, therefore, must maintain information about other program participants' projects and plans in confidence, unless such information is or becomes publicly available or is received from another source without any obligation of confidentiality.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Catalyst Europe 2020 Program is intended to support innovative and entrepreneurial ideas. While intellectual property may be created or enhanced in the course of program activities, participation in the Catalyst Europe program does not, in and of itself, confer on fellows any ownership, license or other interest in or to intellectual property (copyrights, inventions, trademarks, etc.). Any intellectual property is generated by fellows as part of their work in the program will be handled in accordance with the institutional policies of the inventor(s).

The Catalyst Europe 2020 program is organized in a way that it is not expected that fellows generate Intellectual Property during the program, except for works protected by copyright (e.g. description of research projects). Intellectual Property would be generated after the Catalyst Europe 2020 program, during the execution of the research projects (if fellows execute them).

DATA PROTECTION

Privacy Policy is described in the following website: <https://www.catalysteurope.eu/privacy-policy/>.

By submitting the application form, applicants acknowledge that the data provided in the application form will be stored by FAU either in its local servers or in outsourced hosting services companies' servers. FAU reserves the right to share the information provided by applicants with the organizations that form the Consortium (defined in "INTRODUCTION" section) with the sole intention to use the data to inform pre-selection and admission decisions.

CONTACT

To solve doubts related with the Application and Admission process, please send an message through our contact form <https://www.catalysteurope.eu/contact/>. Please note that you may receive an answer after several days, and no later than after a week.