



Call For Applicants – Catalyst Europe 2021

# 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 run collectively the Catalyst methodology in Europe, in collaboration with MIT. Catalyst Europe 2021 is a program supported by EIT Health and included in the EIT Health Education pillar portfolio.

The consortium (from now on “the Organizer” or “the Consortium”) is composed of the 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, GE Healthcare, Health Venture Lab, University of Luxembourg and University of Groningen.

## CATALYST EUROPE 2021

Catalyst Europe 2021 is a hands-on program for researchers 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 (see profiles in “Eligibility Criteria”), who would like to accelerate the impact of biomedical research and are interested in biomedical innovation. 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.

**Catalyst does not support researchers on the translation or commercialization 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. Catalyst faculty and partners do support fellows after the program on the development of the projects nucleated during the Catalyst program.

**Deliverables Catalyst Europe 2021:** The main deliverable as a cohort is a portfolio of research project plans. Each research project plan is developed by a team of fellows. However, all the fellows interact as a cohort in a way that they make decisions together to decide what projects to move forward.

## LOCATIONS - HUBS

In 2021, there are **3 Catalyst Europe Hubs**: Debrecen, Erlangen, and Madrid.

Selected fellows will be assigned to one Hub. Universities in each location (UPM in Madrid, FAU in Erlangen and UniDeb in Debrecen) manage the contractual relationship with the fellows.

3 sessions will be held simultaneously in each Hub, and fellows will attend in person (considering that no Covid19-related restrictions are in place) in their assigned 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 these 3 sessions in person.

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. See "Calendar" for more details\*.

\* If due to the pandemic situation some of these activities cannot happen in-person, they will be converted to online format. In this case, if the restrictions are over while the program is running, the Organizer might convert some online weekly meetings to in-person format to foster personal interactions between Fellows and Faculty. These changes would be duly notified in advance, and agreed with Faculty and Fellows.

## PROGRAM CALENDAR

Program – from May 4th to November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### Sessions:

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

These sessions will run online, via Zoom.

Fellows are required to attend in person the following Weekly sessions, at the university of their assigned Catalyst Hub:

- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

These dates may change depending on the progress of the fellows. Any change of dates would be mutually agreed between fellows and faculty.

#### **Trips – Clinical immersions and intensifications:**

Fellows are required to participate in the following activities, in person:

- May 11<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Clinical Immersion in Madrid. Part of this clinical immersion may run online; the exact dates of online portion will be communicated with due notice.
- July 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Intensification in Erlangen
- September 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Intensification in Boston
- November 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021: Intensification and closing in Debrecen

#### **Summer break:**

- Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021: Summer break. During these days, there won't be weekly sessions.

## HOW TO APPLY AND ADMISSION PROCESS

### **Applications Deadline – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Candidates shall apply to the Catalyst Europe 2021 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 out and signed, unless they justify the possibility to participate in the Catalyst program without the approval of a supervisor.

Applications will close on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 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 –April 7th 2021**

Applications will be reviewed by an Admissions Committee, responsible for pre-selection. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted by April 7<sup>th</sup> and will be invited to participate in Selection Interviews.

Candidates will confirm their participation to the Selection Interviews by April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Interviews – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Pre-selected candidates will be invited to participate in the Selection Interviews on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The session will run online via videoconference and will consist of team workshops and individual interviews. The specific details and timetable of activities that will be conducted that day, will be communicated within the invitation to participate. It is recommended that candidates book the whole day March 30<sup>th</sup> until they are informed about the detailed timetable.

## Selection announcement – April 21<sup>st</sup> 2021

Fellows admitted to Catalyst Europe 2021 will be announced by April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Selected candidates will be informed about the Hub that they will be assigned to.

## Enrollment process – from April 21<sup>st</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Admitted candidates will become Fellows of Catalyst Europe 2021 program. Fellows will sign the enrollment agreement by May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

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 Friedrich 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.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Candidates' profile:

- Candidates living in the EU, from any EU region (not limited to Catalyst Hubs).
- Work or residence permit in EU.
- Academic degree: engineering or science graduate or medical degree.
- Typical profiles: Researchers (PhD students, postdocs), Clinicians (residents, fellows, attendings). Other early stage professionals interested in biomedical research may be considered if they fit the cohort.
- With domain expertise in:
  - o any domain area linked to health technology: including but not limited to life sciences, engineering, biomedical engineering, data science.
  - o Or any clinical domain.
  - o Or in commercial science or health economics.
- Research experience is desirable.
- With a strong interest in health innovation and willingness to participate in research projects as a next step after the 6-month Catalyst Europe 2021 program, as the pathway to de-risk the opportunities identified during the program.
- Open to identify and validate unmet needs, define solutions and design new research projects with high translational potential, rather than applying with an existing project to the Catalyst program.

## Requirements:

- Availability to dedicate 15 hours/week for regular weekly activities of Catalyst Europe program – including weekly Sessions, personal work and teamwork (personal and team work in a flexible schedule format). Full time availability for the Clinical Immersion and Intensifications.
- Availability to attend in person:
  - o 3 sessions. Time and Locations details described in “Calendar” section.
  - o Clinical immersions and intensifications, 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 2021 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. For information, below there is some sub-criteria that may be used as criteria for the selection process (none of the following items will be used in isolation to determine whether a candidate should be selected or not):

- 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 2021 cohort.
- Ability to differentiate between validated facts and assumptions, and to ideate a process to validate assumptions
- Aspiring innovators willing to reach out of their field of expertise to work in a broad multidisciplinary community focused on high impact biomedical research.
- Ability to apply logic and critically analyze and synthesize a broad range of source materials
- Ability to communicate ideas and collaborate with others with different expertise and experience
- Ability to receive and synthesize constructive criticism
- A team player willing to fulfil different roles in research projects
- Experience in developing and implementing research proposals

- Be willing to work in a process that is chaotic, creative and free of pre-conceived ideas or pathways
- 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.

## ECONOMIC COMPENSATION AND CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP

Participants (fellows) do not pay any program fee to participate in the program.

All the fellows selected for the program will have the right to reimburse their travel expenses up to 2.500€, for the travels related to the participation at clinical immersion and intensifications.

There is a limited number of stipends available, to compensate fellows for their dedication in the Catalyst innovation process. The amount for each stipend is to be confirmed (depending on the final amount that EIT Health will grant to Catalyst Europe program). Due to EIT Health regulation, this stipend needs to be paid to individuals; it can't be paid to the candidate's current organization.

The organizations that will confer those stipends are FAU, UPM and UniDeb. If the candidate is currently employed by any of these organizations, different considerations apply as written below.

In the application form, candidates shall indicate whether they want to apply for that stipend.

### Who can apply to the stipend and requirements:

#### A candidate can apply for the stipend in the following circumstances:

- The candidate currently has a part time job/activity and will complement their current activity with the Catalyst program.
- Or, the candidate currently has a full-time activity, but will negotiate a reduction of salary and dedication to participate in the Catalyst Europe program. In this case, the candidate shall attach a Letter of Support from Supervisor.
- Or, the candidate currently has a full-time activity, but will dedicate extra time (beyond his full-time activity).
- Or, the candidate is currently unemployed or does not have any activity.

#### A candidate would not apply for the stipend if:

- The candidate currently has a full-time activity, and will negotiate with their supervisor a reduction of dedication to activities and projects that the candidate is currently working on, to ensure that the he/she can devote the time needed to Catalyst activities during work time.
- AND the current salary of the candidate will remain unchanged.



In this last case the supervisor shall indicate this circumstance in the support letter. The candidate organization or his group/department will be considered "Fellow Sponsor". See below the "Benefits for Fellow Sponsors".

### Stipend amount and other conditions:

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

Fellows selected to receive a stipend, will receive an economic compensation from the university in the Hub they have been assigned to (UniDeb, FAU or UPM, depending on the Hub). The gross amount available to remunerate each fellow is

- 7.500€ - 10.000€ in gross for fellows assigned to FAU and UPM and
- 5.500€ - 7.500€ in net for fellows assigned to UniDeb (which may be topped with a compensation for travel related to in-person weekly sessions and other hub events).

**Note:** the exact amount will be specified once EIT Health confirms the final amount granted to Catalyst Europe.

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 the 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

**Payments:** each university (UniDeb, 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.

Note: these conditions may change subject to final funding decision.

#### For Fellows that are formally employed by UniDeb, FAU, or UPM:

If the fellow is currently formally employed by UPM, FAU or UniDeb, the process through which the stipend amount is either allocated to the fellow department or payed 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.

### Travel Expenses:

All fellows will be reimbursed for their travel expenses up to 2.500€. 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.

## BENEFITS FOR FELLOWS SPONSORS

A fellow sponsor is an organization, group or department that enrolls a selected candidate in the Catalyst Europe program, and allows a reduction in his/her current duties so the fellow can devote the required time to Catalyst activities, without reducing his/her current salary.

A part from the benefits of having a staff member trained in Catalyst and its corresponding community building, Fellow Sponsors will have the right to:

- Appoint one person (typically the fellow's supervisor) to attend the formal presentations during Catalyst Europe program.
- Explore collaborations with Catalyst Europe projects to potentially join the research teams that are formed after the Catalyst Europe program and will execute those research projects. Explore the possibility to be a Principal Investigator for any of those projects.
- Recognition as "Fellow Sponsor" in the Catalyst Europe website.
- Invitation to Catalyst community activities and events.

## 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 Clinical Immersion and Intensifications, as well as the weekly sessions indicated in the section Program Calendar.

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 2021, 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 2021 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 2021 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 2021 program, during the execution of the research projects (if fellows execute them).

## DATA PROTECTION

Privacy Policy is described in the following website: <https://www.catalysteuropa.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 a message through our contact form <https://www.catalysteuropa.eu/contact/>. Please note that you may receive an answer after several days, and no later than after a week.

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