



Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme for early-career researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa - 2026 Edition -

Universities of the Coimbra Group offer **short-term research visits (1-3 months maximum)** to **African early-career researchers from higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa**. The programme aims to support these scholars in continuing research related to their work at their home institution while fostering academic and research collaborations with scientists and institutions based in Europe.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply under this scholarship programme and will be prioritised.

The scholarships are generously **funded by participating Coimbra Group member universities**, while the Coimbra Group Office manages the application process.

Participating universities

The following Coimbra Group universities are **participating in the 2026 edition** of this scholarship programme. Please click on each university to see the specific scholarship conditions offered:

- **Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași** (Romania)
- **University of Barcelona** (Spain)
- **University of Bergen** (Norway)
- **University of Coimbra** (Portugal)
- **University of Cologne** (Germany)
- **University of Granada** (Spain)
- **University of Graz** (Austria)
- **University of Groningen** (The Netherlands)
- **Friedrich Schiller University Jena** (Germany)
- **Heidelberg University** (Germany)
- **Istanbul University** (Turkey)
- **Jagiellonian University in Krakow** (Poland)
- **University of Padova** (Italy)
- **University of Pavia** (Italy)
- **University of Poitiers** (France)
- **University of Salamanca** (Spain)
- **University of Siena** (Italy)
- **University of Würzburg** (Germany)

Applicants must carefully review the specific conditions for each participating Coimbra Group university.



Eligibility criteria

Applicants must fulfil **ALL of the following requirements**:

- Be born on or after 1 January 1981.
- Be nationals and current residents of a Sub-Saharan African country (candidates already living and/or studying in Europe will not be considered). Some host universities may restrict eligibility to applicants from specific Sub-Saharan African countries: applicants should consult the “Remarks” section of each university’s offer to confirm if their country is eligible.
- Be academic staff members of a university or equivalent higher education institution in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Preferably hold doctoral/postdoctoral or equivalent academic status.
- Obtain an acceptance letter/email from a supervisor at the host university confirming their willingness to supervise the work programme during the research stay. This document is **mandatory** (see more information below).
- Apply through the Coimbra Group electronic application process.
- Submit only one application to a single university. Multiple applications will not be considered valid.
- Submit all information in English.

Please note that the universities listed above (“Participating universities”) are the only eligible host institutions for the 2026 edition of this Scholarship Programme. Further details about each university, including their research fields, can be found directly on their respective websites.

Application process

The **online application deadline is Sunday, 10 May 2026 at midnight (Brussels time)**. Applications must be submitted via the Coimbra Group website: www.coimbra-group.eu/activities/scholarships.

Applicants must:

- Review the specific conditions for each participating Coimbra Group university.
- Identify and contact a research supervisor at the selected host university (e.g. via the university website or the indicated contact email address at the selected host institution). The Coimbra Group Office cannot assist in finding supervisors.
- Provide their supervisor’s name and contact details in the application form.
- Obtain a letter/email of acceptance from the supervisor confirming that the candidate has been accepted to carry out research under their supervision, explicitly stating their willingness to supervise the work of the candidate during the research stay.
- Upload the acceptance letter/email together with the application form.

Applications **without this proof of acceptance will not be considered**. Applicants are not required to submit other documents at this stage, although host universities may request additional documentation later.



Application confirmation

The Coimbra Group Office will acknowledge each application individually. Within **two weeks of submission**, candidates should receive an email from the Coimbra Group Office confirming whether their application has been **validated**. This will be the **only** acknowledgement of receipt.

If **no confirmation is received**, the application may not have been submitted correctly or a technical issue may have occurred. In that case, **please contact** info@coimbra-group.eu **immediately**, and **no later than Sunday, 24 May 2026**.

Mobility period

Research visits will take place during the **2026/2027 academic year**. The **exact dates and structure of the visit** must be agreed upon directly between the selected candidate and the **host supervisor/university**.

All **practical details** concerning the mobility period, scholarship payments, certificates and visa procedures must be discussed directly with the host university, not with the Coimbra Group Office. The **language of instruction** is usually the national language of the host country, although in many universities English can often be used as the working language.

Selection procedure

The Coimbra Group Office will conduct an **administrative check** of all applications to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met.

Host universities evaluate and select candidates after this eligibility check. They may request additional documents.

Previously selected candidates can apply for a second grant, but they will not be prioritised.

All applicants will be informed of the **result of their application** by the Coimbra Group Office by the **end of July 2026**. Once the selection has been finalised, successful candidates may receive a separate letter of invitation directly from their host university.



Obligations of the grant holder

- Comply with the **legal requirements** of the host country (in terms of insurance, visa, etc.).
- **Ensure that their home institution will grant them a leave of absence** to undertake the proposed research visit in Europe.
- **Confirm acceptance of the scholarship under the conditions offered by the host university** and the benefits outlined in this Call for Applications, **by responding to the email from the Coimbra Group Office within the specified deadline.**
- Acknowledge the Coimbra Group scholarship in any publications resulting from the research.

Consent to data use

By submitting an application for this Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme, candidates consent to **the use of their personal data by the Coimbra Group** (name, surname, country and email address) for the purpose of sending electronic communications about future calls for the Coimbra Group Scholarship Programme.

Consent can be withdrawn at any time by contacting: info@coimbra-group.eu.

About the Coimbra Group

Founded in 1985, and formally constituted by Charter in 1987, the Coimbra Group is Europe's oldest university network. It brings together long-established, research-intensive, multidisciplinary universities of outstanding international reputation, fostering collaboration and innovation across the European continent. Committed to strengthening their academic and cultural ties, the Coimbra Group supports its members in all their missions - education, research, innovation, and service to society - while advancing internationalisation. More information is available at: www.coimbra-group.eu.

Contact details

For further information please contact the Coimbra Group Office at info@coimbra-group.eu